

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On February 4th, to Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Cox, at Woosung, a daughter.

On Friday 5th February, at Hongkong, SAMUEL WEINBERG, late of the Standard Oil Company. Aged 37 years.

At Victoria Hospital Peak, on the 13th inst, the wife of S. BAXER, of the s.s. *Kumsang*, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On February 5th, at Shanghai, WILFRID HAWKINS, to FRANCES MARY WAINSTALL.

At St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, on February 11th, 1909, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., ARNOLD, son of Mr. and Mrs. GUSTAV KÖHLER, of Walsrode, Hannover, Germany, to ROSINA, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. PIERCE HARRIS-PURCELL, of Shanghai.

DEATH.

On February 4th, at Shanghai, KARL ZIMMER, assistant at H. I. German M.'s Consulate General, aged 36 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS

The German Mail of the 16th ultimo arrived per s.s. *Prinzess Alice* on the 12 inst.

The French Mail of the 15th ultimo arrived to-day, per s.s. *Tourane*.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The opening of branches of the Tai Ching Bank in Japan, England and Germany is under consideration.

The Tsingtau Hotel Co., Ltd. is being wound up. Mr. Ph. Lieder has offered 40 per cent for the whole of the shares.

The completed section of the Canton-Hankow railway, in Kwangtung province, earned a profit of \$127,376 in the last Chinese year.

The Grand Council at Peking has been again discussing how the import of silver dollars into China can be reduced, but the discussion stands adjourned for a month.

A very modern innovation is reported from Peking. From April 20th next every one entering the Forbidden City will be required to show a photograph of himself.

A meeting of exporters was held at Hankow on the 2nd instant, to protest against the arbitrary action of the River steamers in raising the price of freight by Tls. 1.20 per ton, thus entailing enormous loss on the trade.

Soochow is now provided with electric light works. Machinery capable of lighting about 6,000 lamps has been installed and some 3,000 lamps are already in use and in a short time the railway station will be lighted by electricity.

Mr. A. W. Maclean, of the German Consular Service, died last week at the General Hospital in Shanghai. Mr. Maclean, who, as his name implies, was of Scotch descent, came out to Shanghai in 1904, and since the absence on leave of Mr. Schirmer has been acting as German Assessor at the Mixed Court. Death was due to appendicitis, for which he had an operation. He never rallied, and died a week later.

The man who murdered his wife recently on board a French mail steamer, between Singapore and Saigon was named Massol and is described in the Indo-China papers as being honourably known in Cambodge where he had resided for ten years. He was manager of a cotton factory at Ksach-Kandal. He appears to have fired five shots from his revolver at the unfortunate young woman four causing fatal wounds in the head. They had been married four years, and there are three children of the marriage.

The ingenuity of the Chinese opium smuggler is great. On the arrival of the *Paklat* recently at Bangkok the Customs officials found 87 taels of opium on the person of a Chinese. The opium was very cleverly concealed in a sun topee, the lining of which had been removed, and fitted with tin. By unscrewing the top of the topee, the opium could be extracted. When the *Loosok* arrived in Bangkok the same day the officers handed over to the Customs officials 279 taels of opium which they had found on board.

The death is reported at Tientsin of Mr. C. Lenox Simpson, of the Imperial Maritime Customs. Mr. Simpson came out to join the I. M. C. in the early sixties, and has been a Commissioner for upwards of thirty years. Until recently he was stationed at Ningpo.

Brigadier General Clarence Edwards of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, urges Congress to pass the measure recommended by him and by the Secretary of War, giving pensions to certain classes of employes of the Philippine government. General Edwards made a masterly statement of the matter to Congress and both by writing and orally begged the members to pass the bill at once. The Bill applies only to officers receiving for ten or more years service at the time of retirement an annual salary of not less than 6,000 pesos.

A bill providing for the re-establishment in the Philippines of the insular lottery as conducted under the Spanish regime, is now in preparation by one of the members of the Assembly. It is claimed for this bill that it will produce for the insular treasury more funds than any law on the statutes barring the internal revenue act. This is claimed for it in view of the fact that the income from that source in 1897, the last year of its operation, was \$5,431,012 Mexican currency of which \$1,347,743, or 25 per cent, went to the insular government, the rest being expended in the cost of operation and the prizes distributed to the winners.

Mr. J. H. Scott, President of the China Association and senior partner of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, was entertained at dinner by the committee of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association, recently while among the guests was Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, G.C.M.G., Senior British Delegate to the Opium Conference. Owing to the shortness of Mr. Scott's stay in Shanghai and the little space within which arrangements could be made, it was not found feasible to make the entertainment one of the whole Association; but as many as possible of Mr. Scott's personal friends were present. Mr. W. Adams Oram, manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, had kindly lent his house for the occasion, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

There was a narrow escape from disaster at the launching of the N.Y.K. steamer *Kitano-maru* at Nagasaki recently. The *Tenyo-maru* was allowed to enter the harbour and approach her moorings just as the *Kitano-maru* was about to take the water. Fortunately the *Tenyo-maru* was sighted from the Dockyard a very short time before hydraulic pressure would have been applied to accelerate the launch; blocks and shores had been removed and the officials in charge of the operations had a few minutes' anxiety lest the *Kitano-maru* should leave the ways without waiting for pressure to be applied. The dimensions, etc., of the new steamer, which are practically the same as those of the sisterships *Kamo-maru*, *Hirano-maru*, and *Atsuta-maru*, are as follows:—Length, 465 feet, Breadth, 56 feet; Draught, 34.6 feet; Tonnage, gross, 8,600 tons; Horse-power, 7300; Speed, 16 knots. The keel of the steamer was laid down on January 7th, 1908, and her building has been supervised by Lloyds' and the *Teishinsho* Surveyors. She was, the *Nagasaki Press* believes, the first large vessel to be laid down and built at the Yard without the supervision of a foreign naval architect. She is a twin-screw steamer and will be fitted with reciprocating engines.

The action for libel brought by the Asiatic Dredging Company against Mr. Gordius Nielson, recently editor and proprietor of the *China Gazette*, Shanghai, has been adjourned until December 1st. The defendant is appealing against a ruling given by the Danish Consular Judge.

Mr. J. A. Erichsen, Superintendent of the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration at Peking, having resigned his post of his own accord, the Board of Posts and Communications in recognition of his past services in China, has given him a bonus of \$500 and £100 as passage money, and has appointed Mr. H. E. Henningsen as his successor.

A police report was recently submitted to the Shanghai Municipal Council on the subject of opium smoking stating that in the Native City there are seven establishments where opium may be bought and smoked surreptitiously. The names and addresses of these houses were accordingly communicated to the Senior Consul for the Taotai's information.

The Prince Regent, in view of the introduction of Constitutional Government, a Peking contemporary says, proposes that, to set an example to the public, the members of the Imperial Clan shall be punished for offences under exactly the same conditions as prevail in the case of the general public. This he has submitted to the State Council.

A famine is reported in the district of Ching Cheng in N. W. Shangtung as a result of failure of crops, caused by rains and floods during the past year. In response to a memorial by the Governor the Central Government has decreed that the taxes etc., paid during last year by the populace in the stricken district, are to be returned and distributed amongst them.

The attendance at the late Mr. C. Lenox Simpson's funeral was a record in the way of funerals for foreign Tientsin. Sir Robert Bredon, the Acting Inspector-General, I.M.C., was detained in Peking, owing to a meeting of his superior Commissioners, but he was almost the only noteworthy absentee. With one exception, absolutely every representative person in Tientsin was there. The exception was H. E. Viceroy Yang, who was indisposed and was obliged to send a representative.—*The China Times*.

What may be regarded as phenomenal for the time of year is the apparent break up of the winter in the North. The Chief Officer of the *Kaiping* on arrival at Shanghai last week stated that on that steamer's last trip no ice was met with crossing the gulf of Pechili and that during their stay in Chingwangtao of four days the thermometer reading on the deck before sunrise was only 26 degrees F. Chingwangtao also was quite free of ice with the exception of the fringe between the wharf and the shore and in the Tientsin River the ice is rapidly thawing.

We are glad to note that Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their weekly circular, referring to the report that one of the largest and the oldest Import Firms of Manchester goods in Shanghai was in difficulties and that its suspension would cause a large quantity of merchandise to be thrown on the market, state that the latter eventuality has been entirely obviated. The circumstances of the firm's difficulties admitted of a satisfactory explanation and the necessary accommodation has been forthcoming in the interest of the whole commercial community.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says that a Cantonese, Mr. Ho Chen-huan, has arrived in Shanghai and has published a letter in the Chinese press, appealing to the Kwangtung community there and calling on them for some effective action in the matter of the *Fatsan* incident as he says that in the three months since the incident occurred, nothing has been done by the British and Portuguese Consuls or the Chinese authorities. Should the matter be allowed to rest as it is, urges the writer, Chinese lives will henceforth be slighted and valued no more than "geese feathers," and this, he adds, is no happy news for the Chinese brethren in the empire. He has, therefore, specially come to Shanghai and calls for suggestions and opinions from his fellow-provincials, so as to ensure justice being done, according to law. He promises further to announce the place and date of a meeting in connexion with his campaign.

It is stated that Mr. J. W. Jamieson, C.M.G., of H. M. Consular service, formerly Commercial Attaché and for the past three years Foreign Superintendent of Chinese Labour in the Transvaal, will shortly be appointed H. M. Consul-General at Canton.

Captain James Home of the *Hong Bee* has been fined \$500 at Singapore for being the Captain of a vessel used for importing opium into the Colony. The evidence for the Farm showed that twenty-two tins of Amoy opium valued at \$624, were found hidden in the vessel near the engine room. The opium was confiscated by the Farmer.

A new German Town Hall has recently been opened at Hankow in the German Concession. Mr. Schlichting, the Chairman of the German Municipal Council, in taking possession of the building in the name of the Municipal Council as well as of the Concession spoke of it as an ornament and a credit to the Concession. Mr. Dunne, Chairman of the British Municipal Council, made a speech on the occasion in which he warmly eulogised the energy of the German residents and the rapid development of their Concession.

The following regulations made by His Majesty's Minister and declared to be urgent have been published under the authority of Article 15 of the China and Korea Order in Council, 1904:—1.—On and after January 1st, 1909, any British subject importing into China morphia or instruments for the injection of morphia except in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article XI of the Treaty of Sept. 5th, 1902, for the importation of morphia, or any British subject manufacturing in China morphia or instruments for the injection of morphia shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding £50, or to imprisonment to any term not exceeding three months, or to both such punishments, and the morphia and the instruments for the injection of morphia may be declared to be forfeited. 2.—These Regulations may be cited as "The Morphia Prohibition Regulation."

A Peking contemporary states that the Wai-wu-pu recently received a message from the Viceroy of Kwangtung stating that the Portuguese in Macao are at present very active and appearances indicate that they are attempting to bring the whole district, and the Chinese residents therein, under their control. In addition to this the Portuguese have now occupied both banks of Wan Chia and have forced the boatmen to submit to their control. They are distributing the Portuguese National Bank notes throughout the district and insisting on their being accepted as legal tender in and around Ma To Ho. They threaten to punish any of the natives who refuse to accept them. They are constantly breaking treaty stipulations and refused to listen to remonstrances from the officials who were sent to negotiate upon this matter. The Viceroy asks the Wai-wu-pu to open proper negotiations with the Portuguese Minister in Peking and have these affairs settled. The Wai-wu-pu has already notified the Portuguese Minister of these facts.

We notice in *L'Annam-Tonkin* an appreciative reference to the proposed University for Hongkong. There are two great means, our contemporary remarks, of reaching the conscience of a people—two pacific means: the rail and the book. Both are efficacious. The first-increases the domain of the merchant and the manufacturer, benefits the native and the State. The second is perhaps more durable as a means of expansion because it aims at the domain of the spirit. These thoughts, says the writer, were suggested by reading the remarkable discourse of "Sir Luggard," the Governor of Hongkong, wherein His Excellency appealed for funds for the endowment of a University which a generous philanthropist, Mr. Mody, had offered to build at an estimated cost of \$290,000. "Passing in review the efforts of his French and German neighbours the Governor made a warm, and at the same time very convincing, appeal upon the importance of a University in the Far East with power to confer degrees of the same value as some of the English universities. Some questions of detail remain to be arranged and probably, under the patriotic impulsion of 'Sir Luggard,' Hongkong will become an intellectual centre as it is one of the greatest entrepôts of the world."

YUAN SHI KAI.

(*Daily Press*, February 6th.)

Certain mischief-makers in China, it is to be hoped, mainly from sheer ignorance of the actual conditions, have been endeavouring to construe the dismissal of YUAN SHI KAI, as an evidence of a Manchu plot to deprive the Chinese element of its proper weight in the administration of the empire. As we have before pointed out, there is no doubt that the dismissal of YUAN SHI KAI was to a considerable extent due to personal reasons, owing to the inability of the REGENT to work with him on account of the relations existing between him and the late EMPEROR with regard to the reforms attempted to be introduced by the latter. Now it is worthy of note that one of the principal of these, and one that more especially brought down on the young EMPEROR the wrath of the late DOWAGER, was his scheme for the abolition of all difference between Manchu and Chinese in the Government,—and in token of this his desire to make the wearing of the queue optional with all officials. Now the new REGENT has made no secret of his desire to follow out the policy of his brother which was rudely and forcibly interrupted by the coup d'état of 1898, and with that coup d'état the name of YUAN SHI KAI is indissolubly connected; so that only wilful ignorance, or, what is still worse, a deliberate and disloyal attempt to falsify the case, could have been the actuating motive in the suggestion, at once false and mischievous, that the dismissal was in any way the outcome of a plot to exalt the Manchu element to the detriment of Chinese interests. This is the more noteworthy in that it was largely owing to his Manchu associations that YUAN SHI KAI owed his promotion to high office; and his patroness all through was the late DOWAGER, who, whatever her birth, was from all her surroundings a Manchu of the Manchus. Doubtless YUAN owed much of the favour displayed towards him to the fact, that, like the DOWAGER herself, he was capable of making up his mind, and acting on it without swerving; and so presented a strong contrast to most of the weak-kneed crowd of courtiers who surrounded her; but unless he had in addition proved himself a *persona grata* to the Manchu element surrounding the Court this alone would hardly have proved a passport for his advancement. So far then from his dismissal being an indication of any desire on the part of the REGENT to advance the Manchu element in the Government, no Chinese official in high office has earned to the same extent the gratitude of the Manchu hierarchy as the dismissed YUAN himself.

On the other hand, and this is really the only serious part of the present agitation, there is every reason to believe that the outcry about an imaginary Manchu plot to advance Manchu interests to the detriment of Chinese, is actually the work of the revolutionary party, who foiled in their efforts to stir up disaffection on more tangible grounds have raised the belated cry of Manchu supremacy. None were more determined opponents of YUAN while in office than this self-same revolutionary party;—and this for the good reason that no other official understood so well their aims and methods. Herein YUAN was a tower of strength to the Government, and it shows well how little there is of good or ennobling principle amongst the leaders of the movement to veer round at the last moment and accuse the Government of having dismissed him on account of his Chinese proclivities. In politics YUAN was above everything else a conservative,

almost a reactionary, and all the reactionary acts of the late Regency found in him a steady and conscientious backer. It is, in fact, just because the present Government is prepared to carry out an extensive scheme of reform that the new REGENT found that he could not "get on" with the man who had been the ruin of his brother; and whose object it would have been to obstruct every measure having a tendency to widen the basis of constitutional government. It is probably from the want of knowledge of the events of 1900 that many foreigners, from whom we should expect better things, have probably, unconscious of the necessary result, been found backing up a policy in reality revolutionary, forgetful, of the fact that the idea of constitutional government is nothing new among the Chinese people, who, even in the worst times, have kept alive the theory that the basis of good government is to be found in the consent of the people. "Heaven commissioned rulers to preside over affairs," said Mencius, "and when their rule was correct, the people were at peace." "This," he adds, "indicated the people's acceptance." This has always theoretically been the rule accepted in China; and in the best of times carried out by both rulers and ruled. The want has been a quicker method of ascertaining the views of the nation. This has been the foundation of the present movement for reform. In one respect China has been unique in that the movement has been headed by the EMPEROR himself, instead of his waiting for the outbreak of revolution. No country has had more evil experience of the inevitable results of revolution; and herein revolutionaries and reactionaries have kissed hands, for each, bent only on attaining its own ends, both have combined in the act of entirely repudiating the interests of the people themselves. On the other hand the Government would appear to have a fairly clear idea of what is required of it in the matter of constitutional reform. "We do not put forward," the REGENT is reported to have said, "a scheme of constitution reform as a matter of mere words, and to enable certain officials to draw high salaries, but rather to afford a foundation for the readjustment of the national finances on a lasting basis satisfactory to the people at large; and for this purpose we have determined on calling the representatives of the people together." The people pay the taxes, and look to the officials to carry out their reciprocal duties, and this can best be performed by a Parliament where all interests can be represented. No simpler description of the province of a government could be devised, and its very simplicity shows that the essential idea has been grasped, and that those at the head of affairs do not intend that the scheme shall degenerate into mere dumb show. The reform of the financial system of China is momentarily the great desideratum, but the PRINCE REGENT is wise enough to see that it is a huge task, and one not lightly to be taken in hand; and that, in fact, it needs the cooperation of the entire country. The relations of provinces and central executive have literally to be entirely readjusted—and this is a task too great for any man, or any body of men constituting a government, to undertake without the co-operation of the country at large. This is the main point that the revolutionary party, but half instructed, fails to perceive; desiring only to overturn what is because it has failed to be perfect, and shutting its eyes to the fact that mere destruction of evils without compensating provision for reconstruction can only have one effect; and that the entire downfall of the edifice of the State. We may find a

corner in our heart to sympathise with those patriots who, carried away by a genuine hatred of what is false, would remove the rotten props before inserting new of sounder construction; but we can find no excuse for those outsiders who with all the means of obtaining better information, yet suffer themselves to be led astray by the interested clamour of a party bent merely on the gratification of private pelf, or private resentment.

CHINA AND THE MILLENNIUM.

(Daily Press, 8th February.)

However much respect is justly felt for Sir ROBERT HART's knowledge of the Chinese and of their character, some doubts may perhaps be entertained as to the view which he propounded some time back at Lisburn in an address to the Urban Council there that the millennium would come from the Celestial Empire. "Possibly," he said, "one hundred, two hundred or three hundred years hence, those 400 millions of people would be as strong in arms individually and nationally, as, for instance a great Continental Power like Germany is at the present moment, and then what would happen? China would turn round to the rest of the world and say: 'Gentlemen there must be no more fighting'." They would throw in the force of their arms with the country that was attacked and against the country that made war, and he believes that, in that way, the millennium would come. Of course "the millennium" was received with due cheering by the audience, who probably believed about as much in the cheering prospect of what would be the state of the world three hundred years hence as we may fairly consider did the utterer of this very pretty rhapsody.

It is assumed that the nation which makes war is always in the wrong; but surely this is a very large assumption. A country may do a great deal of wrong to another short of waging war upon it; and leave to it no resource but to resort to arms to maintain its rights—so that the grand forbidding of fighting which the China of three hundred years hence is supposed to impose upon the ignorant outer barbarians, by means of its own large army drawn from its 400 millions of inhabitants, might in a given case be the upholding of the wrong and not of the right—which would scarcely be in accordance with the notions generally entertained of the millennium. It is perhaps hardly fair to take Sir ROBERT HART quite seriously on this point—and a little allowance must be made for humour, even in a high ex-official, who is generally pretty serious in his utterances. We are all entitled to our ideas of what will take place in the world three hundred years hence, and stranger things have happened in the course of centuries than the rise of the millennium in China; but still it is probably only a limited number of people who expect that happy event to come from that particular quarter. Sir ROBERT admitted that his assertion was "a curious statement to make," but he added that he knew something of the Chinese and he knew their reasonable character and he, therefore, knew they would act in a reasonable way. With this last view most people who are acquainted with the Chinese will fully agree. The Chinese are always open to reason and usually come to a common sense view of matters which have to be dealt with practically. For this reason we may very safely conclude that they are not very likely, even out of their 400,000,000 population, to think of supporting an army for the

purpose of preserving the peace of the world in general. "C'est une erreur à nul seconde de vouloir se mêler à corriger le monde," would probably be the light in which Chinese reasonableness would look upon any such Quixotic scheme. It is far from the Chinese idea to interfere with other peoples' business, and there will have to be a great change in their ways of looking upon things before the millennium three hundred years hence, if they are to constitute themselves the arbiters of the world's doings.

The impression which Sir ROBERT HART was desirous of conveying is of course merely the old idea that China might some day—between this and the millennium—become a formidable military power—and no doubt the somewhat original way in which he put the matter forward, was calculated, even after being very largely discounted, to have this effect. This has been a favourite theme with Sir ROBERT HART, who, however, seems to attach more importance to mere numbers than perhaps they deserve. That China is improving very noticeably in her military organisation is beyond question; and it is not necessary, at the present time, to point out the serious risks that any nation would incur in going to war with her. This is very well known and it is not likely that any nation would, after the lesson that was conveyed by the Russo-Japanese war, rush into difficulties in this direction in a hurry. It is not, however, necessary in order to confirm this point, to suggest that China is ever likely to become a dominant military power, able to dictate to the whole world. As Sir ROBERT says, the Chinese "are a strangely reasonable people" and they would never wish to carry military enterprise to any such lengths. If they obtain an effective army for maintaining order in the country and protecting it from foreign invasion, they will be quite content. They have done something in this direction and as time goes on will probably do more; but it is not likely that China will attempt to dictate to other nations. They will be quite content under any circumstances if they have sufficient military forces to hold their own.

OPIUM STATISTICS.

(Daily Press, 9th February.)

Bishop BRENT, on being elected Chairman of the International Opium Commission at Shanghai, delivered a speech in which he remarked that all great problems go through two distinct stages. There is first the emotional stage, "based largely upon sentiment and ideals that are conceived in the inner self, sometimes more independent of facts than is warranted." The emotional stage finds expression in agitation, and, as the Chairman remarked, "we have had agitation," in regard to the opium problem. In his opinion we are "at least midway in the second or scientific stage, when men deal with ascertained facts and reach certain conclusions of a practical character that will enable those on whom the responsibility rests to arrive at some final conclusion." How much better it would be if the scientific stage came first, and the emotional stage later! There would not then be half as many hysterical folk in the world as there are now under the existing order of solving "great problems." The difficulty, however, in this opium problem is to ascertain the facts. H.E. TUAN FANG, the Chinese High Commissioner, in his inaugural address last week, made the astonishing statement that the various provinces of the Empire have been able to so reduce the cultivation of the poppy that "it would seem that this culti-

vation may be entirely stopped within the next couple of years." Now on October 4th last an Imperial Rescript was issued with regard to a memorial presented to the Throne by the Ministry of Finance, giving the returns of foreign imports of opium and of the native production, together with the sales thereof. These returns showed that the native production in 1905 was 142,698 piculs, in 1906 it was 148,100; and in 1907 119,943. The sales in 1905 are shown as having amounted to within 1000 piculs of the production; in 1907 they fell short of the production by nearly 13,000 piculs, and in 1907, the sales were over 22,000 piculs short of the production. These are interesting figures, but are they more reliable than Chinese statistics usually are? And what justification is there for believing that the suppression of the traffic will proceed at the same rate? In this same memorial it is shown that there was a progressive increase in sales of foreign opium in those three years. In 1905 they are returned as 51,920 piculs; in 1906, 54,117 piculs; and in 1907, 54,580. According to these returns the native-grown opium is shown to be only about twice as much as the foreign opium imported into China. In the letter published in yesterday's *Daily Press* over the signatures of the Opium Merchants of Hongkong it was said that the production in China of native opium is from eight to ten times as large as the total import of the foreign drug. Which statement is correct? One of the first duties of the Commission will be to ascertain the relative amounts of foreign and native opium consumed in the Empire, and in view of the notorious unreliability of Chinese statistics we fear that this initial difficulty will prove a very great one indeed. The Chairman rightly insisted that in all the deliberations of the Commission and in all the Committee work they must bear in mind that they were to confine themselves to facts that would enable them, he trusted, to reach unanimous resolutions, and, perhaps, recommendations of a practical, broad and wise character in connexion with these resolutions. Bishop BRENT threw out the suggestion that it would be extremely wise if the assembly were to rule out of their deliberations "what might be termed useless historical questions beneath which a great deal a controversy lies hidden and which would only tend to fog the issue." That sounds excellent enough, but we question the wisdom of disregarding a history which sheds so much light on the problem which the Commissioners have assembled to discuss. It is hardly possible indeed to disregard it, but we can be quite sure that, whatever historical knowledge of the question the Commissioners possess will be applied to the clearing of the issue and not to the fogging of it. The deliberations of the Commission are to be conducted *in camera*, but a Publication Committee will be responsible for the issue of summaries of the proceedings. Doubtless the appointment of the Commission has strengthened the purpose of the Chinese Government, but a symposium of reports from a large number of districts in China which the *N. C. Daily News* has recently published give the impression that TUAN FANG, the Chinese Commissioner, was most unduly optimistic when he predicted the suppression of the cultivation of the poppy in China "in the course of a couple of years."

The Prince Regent's seal has cost 30,000 taels. The report does not state what it is made of.

REFORM OR REVOLUTION?

(*Daily Press*, February 10th.)

It seems high time that concerted action should be taken at Home with regard to the future intentions of a Government bent, not on reform, but on actual revolution. The situation is, in fact, rapidly becoming a duplicate of that existing in the first half of the seventeenth century, when, owing to the insane pretensions of the imitators of the Münster Anabaptists of the preceding century, a sect arose which, holding the unwarrantableness of all civil government, and the emancipation of the faithful from subjection to laws or taxes, in no long period upset the fabric of government, and reduced the entire country for a space to absolute anarchy. That movement in England has been the belated offspring of religious sectarianism in Germany during the previous century, which descending lower in the social rank eventually broke out in undisguised socialism, as the present movement in England has been in its turn the outcome of the theories held by French revolutionists of the last century, all holding in common an intense hatred to establishment, whether the establishment be religious, as the Church, or sectarian, as the established order of government. The theory is much the same as that of the reputed Irishman, who on landing in the United States contrived to sum up the doctrine of the sect in the one short sentence: "Have you a government?" "Certainly" was the reply. "Then I'm against it." Such in effect are the doctrines openly acknowledged by many of the members of the present administration, who as they happen to be the loudest spoken, are from a mere craven fear of dissociating the "Party," sullenly acquiesced in by the better disposed elements, regardless of the eventual consequences to the country. Men like a GREY, a MORLEY, or a FOWLER, who have studied history, well know that the promulgation of such doctrines in high quarters has ever been the forerunner of the dissolution of the State that permitted it, yet their consciences have allowed them to act as the coadjutors of men openly professing them. The consequence has been, as ever happens in revolutionary times, that the real power has gravitated towards the most extreme and the men who are foremost in preaching the doctrine of subversion have assumed charge and driven their weaker-kneed colleagues into open acts of sedition and folly. The real command of the Cabinet has long ceased to rest with its nominal head, and Mr. ASQUITH with all the lawyer's adaptability to argue on either side has been compelled, with however bad grace, to adapt himself to the views of such dangerous coadjutors as Messrs. LLOYD GEORGE, WINSTON CHURCHILL, and AUGUSTINE BIEREL. Of late, rumour has it, Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL has had a conception that the person most fitted to assume the Governor Generalship of India after the expiry of the term of office of Lord MINTO is the Right Honourable WINSTON CHURCHILL. In such a case, of course, all argument with his colleagues as to his supreme unfitness would be out of place. It is not likely that either Lord MORLEY, or Mr. ASQUITH would agree; but that is a matter of no moment whatever when weighed in the balance of Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL's own opinion. If Mr. CHURCHILL considers that he himself is the proper man for the post, the Right Honourable WINSTON CHURCHILL may be considered for all practical purposes as already appointed, that is, of course, if Mr. ASQUITH be at the time nominal Prime Minister. Now the country has already

seen the enormous amount of mischief that one man, with whom Mr. CHURCHILL has many political sympathies, can do in our Indian Empire. Mr. KIRK HARDIE is only a plain working member of Parliament, and he went out to India for only a few weeks, yet the simple suspicion that he possessed the sympathies of not a few members of the present administration was sufficient to set the whole of India ablaze from end to end. It is a simple sum of rule of three if so important (in his own opinion) an individual as Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL should be sent out to represent in his own person the King-Emperor, how long the Empire can last.

In such a case it is easily calculated that a new Mutiny would be the least evil to be faced; but with this difference, that we should have to face it but an indifferent Government of doctrinaires, and a mere skeleton of an amateur army. Now it is surely time that the country at large should leave off fiddling, and come to look at affairs as they really are. If we were to lose our principal province, history teaches us that the Empire could no longer hold together; this is no fancy nor unsupported theory. When ALEXANDER THE GREAT died unexpectedly at Babylon leaving no one with sufficient intellectual grasp to take up the reins, India soon fell from the feeble hands of his successors, who fighting for the reflection in the water let fall the entire substance of Empire. Not three years had passed when we find PITHON the powerful satrap of Persia already in open revolt. The rest of the long story of ALEXANDER's successors is nothing but a tale of family dissensions, and a general relapse to barbarism of the entire of Western Asia. Does any one doubt, could any one doubt, that the story would be repeated in the event of India falling under the authority of Mr. CHURCHILL? In such a case it would follow as a matter of sheer necessity that the greater provinces should fall away from an empire which could afford them no protection, and whose alliance might actually become embarrassing. Strangely enough the descendants of the great JOHN CHURCHILL have never done their country service in any civil line, even Lord RANDOLPH's promising career ending in collapse. The great soldier who could boast that he had never been defeated in the field, in his relations with his successive Sovereigns brought nothing on himself but disgrace; deserting each and every as his own momentary interest or fancy dictated, and becoming alternate Whig or Tory, if not contriving to be both at once. Referring to the great Duke it has been said of him that while the talents of the statesmen of the day were chiefly displayed in efforts to convince both king *in esse* and king *in posse* of their sincere attachment to each, the especial sin of MARLBOROUGH lay in the fact that he had been favoured above his compeers by each in turn, and that he betrayed both alike indifferently. No family has been so consistent as that of CHURCHILL throughout the two centuries in its habits of insincerity; and it is at least curious to note how the similar trait of consistent inconsistency has dogged its footsteps ever since. Altogether it seems that the time for dallying has past, and that has arrived for taking into serious consideration the present condition of the country, as well as the unconcealed efforts of the more energetic members of the present Cabinet to involve the country in revolution; which would mean the final break up of the Empire. As according to the old proverb:—*Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat*, the country at large has

been plunged into a state of mental incapacity that renders it blind to the coming crisis; and this is one, if not the most dangerous symptom of the present sleeping sickness, which compels the nation to slumber while on the very verge of the most hazardous precipice that it has ever encountered. Still, though a general feeling of uneasiness is certainly abroad, the leaders of public opinion, whose duty it is to keep a vigilant look out for the signs of the time, are quietly permitting affairs to drift as a rudderless ship in a maelstrom. It is surely time that they should show some more lively concern as to the inevitable result of permitting the ship to drift further from safe anchorage ground.

PEACE AND PREPAREDNESS FOR WAR.

(Daily Press, February 12th.)

JOHN RUSKIN in one of his books on political economy tries to show the absurdity of the plea constantly re-iterated in all countries for larger armaments to ensure national security, by setting out as analogous the case of neighbours in a street outwardly on the best of terms with each other while each is secretly anxious to maintain a good stock of trusty weapons in his back garden in dread of his next-door neighbour committing a burglary. The analogy is weak, but reflections of this character certainly influence many minds. The speeches delivered by the KING and KAISER last Tuesday at Berlin may suggest such thoughts to many in both countries. In Germany, as we remarked yesterday, there is a wide-spread belief that England has been working to accomplish the downfall of the German Empire; in England the rise of the German Navy has been regarded as inspired by a determination to wrest from Britannia her supremacy on the sea, and much talk of the possibility of a German invasion has been heard from time to time. Lord ROBERTS, in the historic speech which he delivered last November from his place in the House of Lords, told the nation that the rise of the German Navy had simplified invasion and that German strategy would be able to elude our ships and land 150,000 men. In the gravest tones the veteran soldier declared that, "if we do not take precautions, we may find ourselves in the hands of the invader, and be obliged to submit to the most humiliating conditions." He was not blaming Germany. On the contrary he said Germany ought to be praised, and her example followed "for her people, by their industry, their perseverance their sound system of education, and by the advantageous military training which every man receives, have made her a great nation." Hurried perusal of the speech conveyed to many persons the idea that Lord ROBERTS had it in his mind that Germany meditated aggression, but a careful study of the address shows plainly enough that Lord ROBERTS cited Germany only as being the strongest possible enemy, and that, for his purposes, every nation was a possible foe. Probably the arguments for compulsory military training were appreciated nowhere better than in Germany. The movement has evidently been gaining ground in England of late, for the fact is coming to be recognised that if Mr. HALDANE's scheme of Army reform fails—as there appears great likelihood of it doing—the next scheme will certainly be one for universal training. The British nation has been educated up to the point of insisting on the maintenance of the Navy at a two-Power standard, and if, as Lord ROBERTS has declared, we have not a strong army in Eng-

land, it can at least be said that the ostensible object of all the reform schemes has been to strengthen the land forces. Mr. HALDANE, it is true, has claimed that he has added 90,000 men to the Army and saved 2½ millions per annum, but Lord MIDLETON, who was Secretary of State for War in 1900-3 and must, therefore, be regarded as a competent authority, has declared the statement to be incorrect in both particulars, while other authorities assert that there has been a large decrease—the figures varying from 80,000 to 115,000 officers and men. Whatever the facts may be is best left to the experts to decide, but it is interesting to note that a Government which came into power with a determination to cut down both the Army and Navy now claims that it has created a larger army, and has won the applause of the nation by definitely laying down as the leading principle of naval policy the maintenance of the fleet at a two-Power standard. Though REUTER, no doubt, quite justifiably declares the speeches by the KING and KAISER at Berlin to be regarded generally as denoting real advance in the prospects of European peace, we can anticipate no reductions yet in the world's armaments, and the demand for greater military and naval efficiency is likely to continue just as strong in every country as before these valuable assurances were uttered. The millenium is a long way off yet.

ARMY REFORM.

(Daily Press, February 13th.)

Whether success crown his efforts or not it will be conceded by even his political opponents that the Right Honourable Mr. HALDANE has wrought greater changes in the constitution of the British Army than any of his immediate predecessors. For years Army Reform has been one of the questions which divided cabinets and sundered parties, but the need was not vividly recognised until the South African war. Since that eventful struggle not a few ministers have come to grief in attempting a solution of the problem and it is not yet certain that Mr. HALDANE's experiment with the Territorials will give the results which its promoter anticipated. There are many who prognosticate failure, but perhaps the wish is father to the thought, for should the new scheme prove ineffective there can be little doubt that conscription will follow. However, we are not concerned with that prospect at present. We are more interested in the statement which the right honourable gentlemen made at a dinner in London the other evening when he announced that negotiations were proceeding between the Home Government and the Over Seas Dominions for the creation of an Imperial Army. Mr. HALDANE, according to the telegraphic information which we published yesterday, added that this was a natural extension of the chain of defence. Admittedly, the principle is right and proper—an imperial army for the defence of the empire; but we may be pardoned if we doubt its practicability. We know from experience that if the Mother Country needed assistance it would be readily forthcoming from her colonies. The demonstrations of loyalty and the equipment of useful additions to our fighting force in South Africa by the Colonies were perhaps the brightest features in the war with the Boers, and it hardly needs to be stated—the fact is so universally admitted—that, should a like occasion again arise, there will be the same speedy response from the larger Colonies. Apostles of empire have preached the need for a

greater union between the Mother Country and her Colonies, and Tariff Reform has been advocated as one of the ways to this end. Now it would appear as if Mr. HALDANE had sought to apply some of the Imperial ideas of this school of thought to his development of an adequate fighting force for Great Britain and the Empire. By Over Seas Dominions we presume is meant the large self-governing colonies—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and probably South Africa itself. Without impeaching the loyalty of those colonies, we venture to express the opinion that even should they decide to furnish contingents to be trained in Britain, or should they agree to place their armies under the control of British generals, the solution of the problem of an effective fighting force for the protection of Great Britain will not thereby be solved. It is only natural to expect that if a colony raises an army for defensive purposes that it should remain in its own territory, and we can imagine that Australia, for instance, which is deeply concerned at present over the question of its defence, would hesitate to consent to a scheme which involved the separation of part of its army. Of course the project might mean nothing more than an arrangement whereby all these colonial armies were placed under the same control and this imperial army administered like the Civil Service. Such a plan would doubtless represent a greater degree of cohesion than obtains at present, but even then it would not be a solution of the difficulty which is still before the Imperial Government. The need for an adequate army would still remain. It is difficult to conjecture what new scheme the Secretary for War has evolved, and we await the publication of its details with some interest.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

No—don't ask me which pony is going to win the Derby. I don't know, and I distrust the tipster. It is always the unexpected that happens. Did not Signoretta, whom nobody but the owner thought of, win the Derby last year, leaving the favourites quite out of the running? And was not the Two Thousand Guineas won by an old cart horse? The only "dead cert" I can give you, my friend, is that in every event next week the first pony home will be the winner.

Yes, there are so many good ponies in training this year that even the most practised hand at "spotting the winner" hesitates to do the spotting yet. It only needs fine weather next week to insure a capital meeting. Yes, of course, the ladies are praying for fine weather for they have given out their orders to the dressmakers, who are working almost day and night to fulfill commands. This would be a dull season for the dressmakers if there were no race meeting.

How many will heave a sigh at the news that the Clock Tower, perhaps the most interesting relic that remains of old Hongkong, is to be demolished as soon as the new Clock Tower on the Post Office Buildings is completed. The information is official, and the Vandals who have so long agitated for its removal are at last able to shout "Hip-hip-hip Hurrah!" In 1905, I think it was, there was quite a long and interesting correspondence on this subject in the *Daily Press* which wound up with a "sermon in stone" three or four columns long, full enough of sentiment to make the angels weep. The hand of the destroyer was stayed. Sir Mathew Nathan could not find it in his heart to resist such a flood of sentiment. The suggestion to remove the tower and put the clock either on the new Law Courts or the Post Office on the waterfront was made in the *Daily Press* at the time, and evidently the D.P.W. has borne the suggestion in mind. Do you ask when the Post Office will be finished? Ah, that

is another story. The Government are following Chinese practice in giving timely notice of the funeral of the old clock tower.

"Whist drives" seem to be getting a tremendous hold on people at Home. Hongkong whist drives and Bridge parties are not in it. [See an article reprinted in another column—Ed.] When I read that prizes to the value of £25 or more are given, it recalled to my mind an interesting conversation I heard not long ago. I say *heard* and not *overheard*, for it was in a public place, and everybody knows that when some people carry on a conversation there is nothing of the private-and-confidential whisper about it. "I've been awfully puzzled to know what to give as prizes at my Bridge party to-morrow," remarked a lady to the crowd, "but I've just purchased 'Hellepont on Bridge.' I think that will make an excellent prize don't you?" The lady on the right agreed, but the others were ominously silent. Perhaps they thought, as I did, that a book of instruction would make an excellent "Booby" prize, but is there not just a possibility that it may strike the winner as a grievous insult?

An American Professor has discovered that Burns did not write "Auld Lang Syne." Miss Carrie Nation, the American "saloon smasher" will, I am sure, be delighted to hear it. She has recently been on a smashing campaign in Glasgow. It was just before the Burns celebrations, and she said of them:—"I am told they are given over to drinking, when shame and disgrace are heaped on the memory of that great man. These clubs drink his memory in the rotten slops which ruin poor bairns. The poet was murdered by people who put drink to his lips, yet clubs are organised and perpetuate his name in intoxicating drink." It quite fits in with this to say that it was not Robbie who wrote "We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet

For the sake of Auld Lang Syne." Was it such considerations as these, I wonder, which caused local Scots to refrain from having "A nicht wi' Burns" last month?

Who in the East has not made the acquaintance of aged "new laid" eggs? Everybody, I ween, has met them again and again, and given them the go-by. It should therefore interest everybody to know that a novel process of preserving eggs has been successfully tried in England. The process has been adopted by a firm of Hull importers acting on the theory that an egg decomposes owing to the entrance of bacteria through the shell. The shells by the new process are first disinfected and then immersed in a vessel of hot paraffin wax in a vacuum. The air in the shell is extracted by the vacuum, and atmospheric pressure is then allowed to enter the vessel, when the hot wax is forced into the "pores" of the shell, which thus hermetically seals it. Evaporation of the contents of the eggs, which has a harmful effect, is thereby prevented, and the egg is practically sterile. Some "new-laid" eggs treated in this manner six months ago (the date being guaranteed by Mr. Thomas A. Robinson, J.P., the head of the firm), have been submitted to chemical and microscopic examination by the *Daily Mail* and have been found equal to new-laid eggs in every respect. The yolk of pickled eggs and others artificially preserved will sometimes break on being poached, but the eggs examined behaved when poached exactly as new-laid ones. The inside of the shell showed under careful examination that the wax penetrates through the "pores," the contents being thus quite immune from external influences.

The attention of the Chairman of the P. & O. Company should be drawn to this paragraph. The ships that take home China pigs in their thousands, might fill up with preserved new-laid hen's eggs (of a respectable size) on the outward run.

In the Assize Court at Singapore:

"And your son never goes out at night even though he is 23 years of age?"

"I am afraid he will go astray, so I never let him go out at night."

Quite right, too. It was a young man of this type who formed the subject of that pathetic song entitled: "Does your mother know you're out?"

What the Duchess of Marlborough says about polygamy following in the footsteps of universal suffrage in England makes me feel quite resigned to spend the evening of life in Hongkong where at present there are no prospects of such disturbing contingencies. But who knows what the morrow will bring forth? The idea of every woman demanding the share of a husband of course has attractions for some, no doubt, but who will pay the expenses? I feel that I'm rather hen-pecked as it is at times, but if the odds lengthened and I was one against two, I think I would beat a retreat and like Jeffries, the boxer, take on the winner, for there's sure to be a split in the camp when the prize is so valuable.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The first case of plague in the Colony this year was reported on Feb. 10th. It occurred in Kowloon city.

The Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s loss on subsidiary coins for the second half of last year amounted to \$21,510.90!

The Hongkong Ice Company Ltd announce that from the 1st March the price of ice will be reduced to one cent per lb.

The s.s. *Hong Wan I*, which arrived from Singapore on Feb. 10th, brought another 29 deportees to the Colony. They will be forwarded on to China shortly.

Nine pullers of private rickshas were charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Feb. 10th with leaving their vehicles in public streets, and were fined \$3 each.

We are officially informed that it is proposed to demolish the Clock Tower as soon as the new Clock Tower on the Post Office buildings is completed.

There is an interesting short story in the *Queen* by Miss Violet Blair, daughter of Dr. Koch, of Hongkong. It is entitled "When Half-Gods go."

Her Excellency Lady Lugard's condition may now be considered to have entered the convalescent stage, but it will be some days before her strength will allow her to be out. No further bulletins will be issued.

The *Gazette* notifies that Messrs. E. R. Hallifax, S. B. C. Ross and D. W. Tratman are authorised by the Governor-in-Council to hold small debts courts at various places in the New Territories, exclusive of New Kowloon.

Even in this part of the world men fall from their high estate. Two men were brought before the Magistrate charged with being rogues and vagabonds and one explained that he was a retired colonel in the Chinese army. However he and his companion were ordered to pay five dollars or go to prison for seven days.

The Hanoi newspapers contain reports of a memorial service held in the Cathedral at Haiphong on the 30th ult. for the repose of the soul of M. Pierre Marty, who died at Hongkong on the 22nd ult. Mass was celebrated by Monseigneur Arellano, assisted by his Curate. The Cathedral was draped in black and a large catafalque stood in the centre of the nave. All the notabilities of the town were present including many ladies.

The remains of Constable Tyrrell of the Naval Yard Police, which were found at North Point on Tuesday, were interred in the Happy Valley Cemetery on Thursday morning. The funeral of the unfortunate constable was followed by a large number of his comrades in uniform, as well as by numerous sailors and soldiers. Commodore Lyon was present and the funeral service was conducted by the Rev. M. Longridge, Naval Chaplain.

The Portuguese named Frank Aquino, who fell into the hands of the police and had to answer no fewer than sixteen charges preferred against him, was brought before Mr. Wood at the Magistracy on Feb. 12th and pleaded guilty to the nine charges then read against him. With one exception they were all theft. He was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment on each of the eight charges of theft and to one month on the charge of receiving a pump, knowing it to have been stolen, in all one year in prison.

We understand that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to grant Constable E. Hedge the fourth class Police Medal for his conduct in the recent shooting affray at Yau-mati, in which Lance-Sergeant Mills was killed.

On Feb. 7th the dead body of a coolie was found lying on the roadside at Shauiwan. On top of the coolie a heavy load of timber was found. It is surmised that deceased, while carrying this load stumbled and fell, and a piece of wood striking him on the head, killed him instantly.

Kowloon residents will be glad to learn that the Sanitary Board have taken action which should put an end to many complaints which have come from that side of the harbour lately. We learn that the scavenging contractor has been penalised to the extent of \$150 for a breach of the terms of his contract.

Two natives were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Feb. 9th with breaking into the house of Mr. W. Logan at No. 4, Century Crescent, and stealing a quantity of silverware. After hearing the evidence his Worship dismissed one of the accused, and sentenced the other to six months' imprisonment. A further six months was added to his term for disobeying an order of banishment.

"In memory of John Shaw Burdon, Bishop of Victoria, Hongkong, 1846-1897" is the inscription on a solid silver Alms Dish which has been presented to St. John's Cathedral by Bishop Burdon's sons, Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., of Northern Nigeria, and Mr. E. R. Burdon, M.A., of Cambridge. The inscription is engraven round the rim of the Alms Dish, while the central design is copied from the late Bishop's seal.

Their many friends in the Colony who are not already "in the know" will join with us in extending hearty congratulations to Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, and Miss Agnes Chatham, eldest daughter of the Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works, on their engagement. At a dance of the Centipede Society held in the City Hall on Wednesday night, Mr. Wolfe and his fiancé, who were present, received the felicitations of many who attended.

The impudence of some Chinese thieves who broke into the house of Mr. Gomez in Caine Road and stole a quantity of cooking utensils proved to be their undoing. After getting away with their booty the defendants sent a go-between to Mr. Gomez' cook and offered to let him redeem the stolen property for a small payment. This information was imparted to the police, a trap was set, and the men were arrested at the spot where the stolen property was to be returned. Mr. Wood sentenced each of the defendants to six weeks' imprisonment.

Returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st January, 1909, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are as under:—

BANKS.	AVERAGE SPECIE IN AMOUNT. RESERVE.	
Chartered Bank of India,		
Australia and China,	\$3,556,942	\$2,700,000
Hongkong and Shanghai		
Banking Corporation,	19,052,242	15,000,000
National Bank of China,	68,236	Nil.
Total	\$22,677,420	\$17,700,000

The syllabus of the Hongkong College of Medicine for the Spring Session has been issued. Lectures have been arranged as follows:—Practical Anatomy, Dr. G. D. R. Black with Dr. Ho Ko Tsun, as Demonstrator; Public Health, Dr. W. W. Pearse; Medical Jurisprudence, Dr. F. Clark; Chemistry, Mr. A. C. Franklin, F.I.C.; Clinical Medicine, Dr. J. C. Thomson; Clinical Surgery, Dr. R. M. Gibson; Tutorial Medicine and Midwifery, Dr. Jen Hawk; Eye Diseases, Dr. R. A. Belilios; Midwifery and Gynecology, Dr. C. Forsyth; Mental Diseases, Dr. W. V. Koch; Surgery, Dr. W. V. Koch; Anatomy, Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams; Physics, Dr. W. B. A. Moore; Pathology and Bacteriology, Dr. W. Hunter; Physiology, Dr. R. A. Belilios; Biology, Mr. A. R. Sutherland, M.A.; Practice of Medicine, Dr. F. T. Keyt; Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Dr. O. Marriott.

THE SANITARY BOARD.

PROSPECTIVE RETIREMENT OF CHINESE MEMBERS.

On March 5th the term of service of Messrs. Lau Chu Pak and Fung Wa Chun on the Sanitary Board expires and we understand that neither gentleman desires to be reappointed. Mr. Fung Wa Chun has now numerous business calls to Canton which would not enable him to resume his seat, and when a representative of the *Daily Press* called to see him yesterday he learnt that he was away at that city. Mr. Lau Chu Pak was found at his office, and stated that he was not seeking reappointment. He had served the interests of his countrymen on the Board for nine years, but business affairs would not permit him to continue. "Besides," said Mr. Lau, "it is time I gave somebody else a chance." Although retiring from the Board, Mr. Lau will still continue to serve on the various other public institutions of which he is now a member. He is now connected with the District Watchman's Committee, the Advisory Board to the Tung Wah Hospital, the committee of the Plague Hospitals, the Public Dispensaries and other institutions.

On the Sanitary Board Mr. Lau was ever an ardent champion for the Chinese, and it was greatly owing to his exertions that many of the harsh measures at one time in vogue have been considerably modified. When the byelaws regarding fumigation of premises were introduced, Mr. Lau was out early of a morning to see that the Chinese offered no opposition to the Sanitary Inspectors and to see that they were fairly treated. "From appearances," said Mr. Lau, "I was pro-Chinese, but I was not so in reality. I only wanted to promote a better understanding, and to teach my countrymen that the various measures introduced were necessary for the benefit of the Colony."

Mr. Fung Wa Chun has seen ten years' service on the Sanitary Board, and, like his colleague, has been identified with all measures concerning the Chinese, such as the disinfection of houses, the abolition of cubicles, etc. He has also worked hard for the mitigation of drastic measures and for the improvement and advancement of the lot of the Chinese citizens of Hongkong.

Among those who are likely to be recommended by the Registrar-General to His Excellency the Governor for appointment to the vacancies are Messrs. Chau Sin Ki, Ho Kom Tong and S. W. Tso, all of whom are now connected with various public institutions working for the public weal.

RETIREMENT OF DR. BATESON WRIGHT.

We are officially informed that Dr. Bateson Wright, the Headmaster of Queen's College, is retiring from the Colonial Service in April next. Dr. Wright has been in the Colonial Service nearly twenty-seven years. He came out in January 1882 to take up the appointment of Head Master of the College, but his first year in the Government Service was served in the capacity of acting Inspector of Schools. When he entered upon his duties as headmaster of the College the roll numbered about 400. The College now has a roll of about 1,400. How many thousands of boys have passed through the College in the long period of Dr. Wright's connection with the school we cannot say, but this we know that there are thousands scattered all over the Chinese Empire who hold the name of Dr. Bateson Wright in the highest respect and gratefully remember his painstaking and conscientious work in the school.

Another Chinese Prince intends to go abroad. Hsien Chang, the elder son of Prince Su, has obtained permission from the Throne to study abroad. He has decided to accompany the new Minister to Germany, H.E. Ying Chang, but has not yet decided in which country he will take up his residence.

DANCE AT THE KING EDWARD HOTEL.

On Feb. 8th Admiral of the Fleet Sir James Erskine and Lady Erskine, entertained a number of their friends at the King Edward Hotel where a very enjoyable dance was held. For this purpose the small dining room was transformed, and made an admirable dancing room. Handsome floral designs and flags draped the walls, the general effect presenting a very pretty appearance under electric light. The big dining room was used as a supper room, while on the floor above, one of the front drawing rooms was converted into a card room to accommodate those who found more pleasure in a game of cards than in the dancing hall. Screens of matting draped with flags surrounded the balcony of the first floor, where the dancers sat out. Machado's string band provided excellent music, and dancing was continued with zest until an early hour. The artistic decorations were arranged by Mr. Gee, manager of the hotel, and Signal Boatswain Cubitt and the Signal Staff of H.M.S. *Bedford*, and those who were present will readily admit that they did their work well. The supper was supplied by the King Edward Hotel.

The whole of the arrangements were under the personal supervision of the proprietor, Mr. D. Dorabjee.

Among the invited guests were Vice Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton, Major-General Broadwood, Commodore, Mrs. and Miss Lyon, Colonel Darling, Sir Francis and Lady Piggott, the Hon. Mr. F. H. and Mrs. May, Sir Henry Berkeley, the Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, Captains Erskine, Smith, Nugent and Clinton Baker, Colonel and Mrs. Bayard, Colonel and Mrs. Chamier, Capt. Baron von Mayern Hohenberg, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Gresson and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. M. Smith.

AN UNKNOWN TONGUE.

Officials on duty at the Central Police Station charge room last week were greatly perplexed when a sailor who was considerably under the weather, could not be made to understand English. The constable who took him in wished to charge him with being drunk, but Jack could not be made to understand the nature of the charge. He proceeded to address the Inspector on duty in a language which that officer had not apparently heard before, and which baffled the other men on duty. Inspector Hanson was called to act as interpreter, the police having an idea that the seaman was speaking German. This being disproved by Inspector Hanson, other interpreters were sent for, but questions put in different tongues failed to draw a response from the sailor. Then an English sergeant who had been in Wales told those present that the man was speaking Welsh. A Welsh interpreter was eventually found, and the man was charged.

CHINESE AND CRACKERS.

Although the firing of crackers in prohibited areas, and without a permit, may appease Joss or scare the devil, it does not satisfy the powers that be in Hongkong, and as a consequence some seventy odd Chinese were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Feb. 5th. All the available space in the large court was occupied by Chinese of all degrees from the humble mechanic to the wealthy merchant, and the widow who by propitiating the Omnipotent trusted that the barrel of rice would not waste nor the cask of samshu fail. The doors of the Court were lined by Indian and Chinese constables, and as the defendants pleaded guilty to the charge his Worship imposed fines of \$2 on each offender. So time ran on until some \$160 has been added to the Colony's revenue, and then five of the natives charged pleaded not guilty. The hearing of their cases was adjourned, and the Magistrate adjourned the Court. His place on the bench was taken by Mr. Ali Bux, a clerk at the Magistracy, and by the Magisterial shroff, who proceeded to collect the fines, and as each offender paid for his breach of the law he was allowed to pass through the guard at the Court door.

ALLEGED ARMED ROBBERIES.

THE SANTIN CASE.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Feb. 9 Li Kam Fuk was arraigned on the charge of committing armed robbery with others, not in custody, at Tsui Kong village, Santin.

We previously reported regarding this affair that on January 4th a number of men, armed with knives and choppers, entered a house at Santin occupied by an old woman and a child, attacked the old woman, and departed with \$4.50 worth of goods. Subsequently the defendant was arrested by Sergeant Cooper, who yesterday conducted the prosecution.

Complainant deposed to five men entering her house on the early morning of January 4th, and that defendant was one of the five. The door was broken open, and the intruders asked witness for money. She said she had none, and one of the robbers suggested that they should hang her up to the roof. Some of the men then seized her hands, and took two bangles from her wrists. She seized one of the men, but he cut her with a knife, the defendant telling him that he would have to do so before he could release himself. Witness was also cut on the head, and when she released the man she had seized, all the robbers decamped.

After further witnesses had been heard, the hearing was adjourned.

THE CHEUNGSHAWAH AFFAIR.

Further evidence was adduced before Mr. J. H. Kemp in the case in which five natives were indicted on a charge of armed robbery at Cheungshawah, and the hearing was again adjourned.

DISOBEYING BANISHMENT ORDERS.

Four natives were charged at the Police Court on Feb. 8th with disobeying orders of banishment. Two of the men who appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp were sentenced to six months' imprisonment. The third man to appear before the same Magistrate was also charged with a burglary. He was arrested after having broken into a house at Hunghom, and subsequently it was found that he was an old offender. On January 21st, 1907, he was arrested for being a rogue and vagabond sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment and banished on February 3rd. On the 2nd May of the same year he was again before the Court, and sentenced to twelve months' hard labour for disobeying the banishment order. On the 1st May of the following year he was again banished, but turned up again on the 18th of the same month, and went to jail for another six months, after which he was exiled from the Colony again. Yesterday, however, he was found again, and on the charges being proved, his Worship sent him to jail for six months' on the robbery count, and added another twelve months to his sentence for returning from banishment.

The fourth man, who was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, was much more fortunate, a sentence of only six weeks being passed upon him.

VOLUNTEER CHURCH PARADE.

On Sunday morning a Volunteer Church parade took place when a fair number of volunteers mustered under the command of Lieut. Colonel Chapman, V.D., and marched to the Cathedral where a large congregation had assembled. The other officers present were Captains Thompson, Skinner, Armstrong, Lieutenants Ross, Northcote, and Kennett.

The Bishop gave an interesting address. The text was taken from 1 Timothy 6-12 beginning with the words "Fight the good fight" and the preacher dwelt at length on the progress of Peace and the more satisfactory and certainly less sanguinary methods of settling disputes at the Hague rather than adhering to the old methods of bloodshed. In Hongkong where there were representatives and peoples of all nations we had an unequalled opportunity of spreading peace and good will to men and understanding each other better.

After the service His Excellency the Governor inspected the corps.

THE YAUMATI SHOOTING TRAGEDY.

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF A CHINESE.

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE.

At the Magistracy on the 12th inst. Mr. J. H. Kemp, sitting as Coroner, conducted an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Laing Wang Sing, who was shot by P. C. Hedge in the shooting affray at Yaumati on Chinese New Year's Eve. The jury consisted of Messrs. F. Smith, W. J. Crawford and D. Ramjahn.

His Worship said the reason for holding the inquiry was that some men were at first charged with the murder of Lance-Sgt. Mills, who was shot on the same occasion and, if that case had been proceeded with, the evidence with regard to the shooting of deceased would have come out. The charge having been withdrawn, it was now necessary to hold an inquiry. The principal point would be the conduct of the constable—whether he was justified in shooting the deceased when he did.

Dr. Bell stated that the deceased was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital on the morning of January 22nd. He was suffering from a bullet wound in the belly; an operation was performed and the bullet removed. He died at 9.25 a.m. the same day.

The shopkeeper, whose place was ransacked by the robbers, said the men came into his shop about 10 o'clock on the night of January 21st. They were armed with revolvers. They tied up witness and three fokis, pointed revolvers at them and demanded the keys. Witness and the fokis said they had no keys but the men searched the premises until they found the keys with which they opened the safe and took away all the money, amounting to \$4,300. When they left, witness, who was tied by the queue, cut his hair and went after them calling out "Robbers." They ran in the direction of the Police Station and as he followed one of the men pointed a revolver at him but it missed fire.

A lukong who was in the company of two Chinese constables on the occasion stated that on hearing a police whistle they ran in the direction of the sound. Witness saw a detective try to stop the deceased by catching him by the neck, but the deceased, using a revolver, shot the detective in the left hand. Witness joined in the chase. As they passed the Police Station, Lance-Sergt. Mills came out and tried to clutch the deceased round the neck. The deceased, Laing Wong Sing, turned and shot the officer who, placing his hand over his heart, walked back to the station. Witness then shot at Laing Wong Sing who called out "Are you still coming" and afterwards ran into a lantern shop in Wing Sing Street. P. C. Hedge entered, followed by witness, and they found deceased in the kitchen. The robber fired, whereupon P. C. Hedge discharged his revolver three times. On going into the kitchen they saw Laing Wong Sing leaning against the wall and found his revolver under the fire place. With the assistance of another policeman they secured deceased and took him to the Police Station. He did not struggle but he was unwilling to go. They searched him to see if he had any more firearms.

By the Court—P. C. Hedge fired into the kitchen three times. Where was this man?—Inside the shop, inside the door of the kitchen.

Where was P. C. Hedge?—He was a short distance from the kitchen. There was one wall between them.

Could P. C. Hedge see him?—No.

Did he go round the wall?—P. C. Hedge fired round the corner.

Where were you?—I was inside the shop with P. C. Hedge. I was outside the door of the kitchen.

Where were the other constables?—At the door.

P. C. Hedge was then called. About 11.15 p.m. on the night in question while on patrol opposite the Pumping Station he saw a large crowd coming towards him, several blowing whistles. He saw they were chasing one man and on his attempting to stop him the latter pointed his revolver at him and, fired, afterwards running into a shop. Witness

followed. The man pointed his revolver at witness and fired again. That was in the kitchen, witness being in the door way. The officer drew his revolver and fired low, thinking it would frighten the man. Instead the latter pointed his revolver at the officer. He thereupon shot the deceased who called out and witness, putting his revolver away, made to arrest the man. The latter struggled fiercely and witness had to make use of his truncheon before he could arrest him. Deceased dropped his revolver which was picked up by one of the detectives and handed him. On examination he found five empty cartridges. He took deceased to the Police Station. Later he identified the body of deceased at the hospital.

Did you see the last witness?—Yes.

Could you remember where he was?—No.

How many shots did you fire altogether?—Four.

By a jurymen—Where were you when he first pointed the revolver at you?—In the street, opposite the Pumping Station.

This concluded the evidence.

His Worship said he would ask the jury to find that the cause of death was due to a bullet wound in the belly and also to inquire into the conduct of P. C. Hedge. The law on the subject was that if an officer were resisted in the execution of his duty he might repel force by force, and, if in so doing, he killed the party, then it amounted to justifiable homicide. The law went further in favour of the officer. If the party flees or endeavours to escape and if he could not be arrested in any other way, the killing is justifiable. In this case there was ample evidence. The man had already shot Sergt. Mills and shot at two other men as well as P. C. Hedge and seems to have been a desperate character.

The jury found that the deceased had died from the result of the bullet wound and that his death amounted to justifiable homicide.

His Worship afterwards called up P. C. Hedge and the Chinese detective Cheung Shan and commended them for the manner in which they had done their duty.

ARMED ROBBERIES.

THE SHOOTING AFFRAY AT YAUMATI.

The seven natives arrested in connection with the armed robbery at Yaumati on January 21st, which resulted in the death of Lance Sergeant Mills, were arraigned on charges of murder and armed robbery before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Feb. 5th.

Acting Assistant Superintendent King prosecuted, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the seventh defendant.

Mr King informed his Worship that he wished to withdraw the charges of murder against the seven defendants. He also wished to withdraw the charges of armed robbery against the third and fourth defendants, the only evidence against them being that they were arrested in the house under suspicious circumstances. With regard to the seventh man, he would also withdraw the second charge against him, as he had elected to give King's evidence.

His Worship withdrew the charges as desired.

Li Chan, the master of an iron foundry in Kennedy Street, told the court that between ten and eleven on the night of January 21st five persons entered his shop, all of whom were armed with revolvers, which they pointed at the inmates. Then they tied them up and put them to one side. One of the intruders asked witness for the keys of the safe. Searching the master's person, he found and took the keys, opened the safe and removed the money. Witness and his two fokis were tied together by their queues, and they saw the robbers take the money away. As soon as they got out of the shop they ran. Witness severed his queue and gave chase, shouting "thief" as he ran. After he turned a corner somebody blew a whistle, and the first defendant was arrested. In the shop, when the robbers covered him with their revolvers, they told him to keep his mouth shut otherwise they would shoot him. He identified the first defendant, but could not identify any of the others. Witness had \$4,800 odd in his safe at the time, and all this was taken.

Further evidence was heard, and the case adjourned.

ANOTHER CITY OUTRAGE.

Notwithstanding the vigilance of the police, and the numerous arrests which have lately been effected, the armed robber is still with us.

Shortly before the tiffin hour on Feb. 5th another daring "hold up" was attempted in the heart of the city, but thanks to the activity of the police, was frustrated, and one of the miscreants was arrested. At the time mentioned three natives, armed with Japanese swords, presented themselves at the dwelling of a countryman residing at 16, Cochrane Street. As the door was opened to them they pushed into the house, secured the only occupant, the tenant, bound and gagged him, and proceeded to ransack the dwelling. Before they could collect the spoil, however, a policeman appeared on the scene, and succeeded in arresting one of the robbers. The other two escaped, but an early arrest is expected.

THE RECLAMATION STREET AFFAIR.

Two more Chinese were placed before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on the 10th inst., charged with committing armed robbery with others not in custody at No. 9, Reclamation Street, on January 2nd.

Assistant Superintendent King prosecuted, and the prisoners were not defended.

Mr. King informed his Worship that on the day mentioned the two defendants called at the house of complainant, told his wife they were anxious to rent a floor, and wished to know what her husband would charge for one of the houses in the block. Complainant's wife told them \$9, and just then she was pushed into her house and tied with two other women who were there. The first two callers were followed by four others, all of whom were armed with knives. After securing the women they proceeded to ransack the house, and although this took place in broad daylight in one of the busiest streets at Yaumati the men got clear away. About a week later, the two defendants were arrested. They admitted that they went to the house to rob, but denied being armed. Three witnesses for the prosecution, however, would swear that they were armed.

Evidence was called and the hearing adjourned.

THE ROBBERY AT CHEUNGSHAWAN.

The hearing of the case in which five natives were charged with armed robbery at Cheungshawan concluded before Mr. J. H. Kemp, and on the evidence his Worship committed the defendants for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

NAVAL OFFICER'S GALLANT ACT.

A gallant and successful attempt to save a stoker's life was made by Commander Norris of the Flag Staff last week while H.M.S. *Alacrity* was steaming down the West River. The chief stoker of the warship fell overboard while attempting to board the launch and was struggling near the propeller. The Commander, seeing the dangerous predicament of the stoker, immediately pulled off his coat and went overboard to his assistance. He succeeded in keeping him afloat until a boat was lowered, and into this willing hands soon pulled rescuer and rescued.

A TRIAD SOCIETY MEMBER.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Feb. 10th Inspector Dymond charged a native with stealing a bundle of clothing, and with being a member of the Triad Society. From the evidence tendered it appeared that the defendant snatched a bundle of clothing from another Chinese in a temple at Yaumati. A quarrel followed, and when the police appeared on the scene the defendant took to his heels. He was chased as far as Samshuipo, where he rushed into a house. The police entered after him, and a search of the premises resulted in the finding of a Triad Society book on which the defendant's name was inscribed. His Worship dismissed the charge of larceny, but sentenced the defendant to three months' imprisonment for being a member of the Triad Society.

THE MANILA CARNIVAL.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Tuesday, 2nd February.

It is no straining of language to say that King Carnival holds sway here. With the enthusiasm which Americans impart into most things that they take in hand the citizens, or properly speaking the Carnival Association, have made elaborate preparations for a week of high revelry in which the most imposing pageants, and the most interesting of industrial and commercial exhibits, will be on view, and in which pleasure and amusement, unlimited and diversified, will enthrall all who come under its influence.

It is difficult to conceive all that is summed up in the word Carnival. Camp Wallace, the scene of military operations in the early days of the occupation, is transformed. The Lunetta, always a place of beauty,—while not losing its distinguishing characteristics, has become a place of joy. A vast enclosure separates the carnival city from the old world Manila and from the new commercial city. Here everything is of the gayest. The buildings are brilliant with colour. The people are full of animation. Fun, frolic and good humour prevail throughout.

To describe the arrangements for the Carnival would entail a considerable demand on your space. Perhaps it will suffice if I tell you that it is fairyland. Picturesque and lovely as it appears in the brilliant sunshine its beauty becomes more apparent perhaps when the shades of even have fallen and the illuminations show new aspects and new view points.

At four o'clock the gates were opened and gave admission to the large crowd which eagerly sought admission. The goddess of Liberty, holding aloft her light over the city; caught the view of visitors immediately the gates were opened, and the splendour and glory of the place was not lost upon the gay, light-hearted people who came to see, to admire, and to be enchanted. That they were delighted was apparent to the most casual observer.

The Hippodrome is the star attraction of this evening. The monster amphitheatre with a vast arena and a seating capacity for twelve thousand will be open at nine o'clock with a grand entry of all the participants in the sports. Hongkong meets the 10th Cavalry in the polo sports this afternoon and tomorrow the cricket match between Manila and Hongkong will commence. Tennis will commence on Thursday and will be continued for several days. Undoubtedly one of the most popular attractions is the playing of the Band of the 13th Rajputs. It is described in the programme as the "Famous Band of 13th Rajputs, British Army in India, composed of the following native races: Afridis, Sikhs, Pathans, Afghans, Punjabis, Ghoorkhas."

As you all know, the Carnival is intended to "boost" Manila. That is the American way of describing the business. Certainly the Carnival Association have taken the proper steps of securing publicity to their undertaking and to making the city better known. They have sent a cordial invitation to all the Hongkong newspapers, the "public sentiment makers," and in response to that we have here a party of Hongkong pressmen. They have been heartily welcomed on behalf of the city and everything possible to afford them the best impressions of the place has been done. With the sporting representatives of the colony, they were met on the steamer by the Reception Committee and introduced to the leading gentlemen of the city. Now they are seeing the city and the people at their best.

3rd February.

Amid such scenes of animation and amid such experiences of good fellowship and hospitality one's impressions of Manila and its inhabitants must be exceedingly favourable, and the more one sees of the "Pearl of the Orient" and the folks who have their habitation therein the higher they rise in one's estimation. To the visitor who goes there for the first time Manila is a revelation. It is a real city. It has all the attractions, all the animation, and most of the advantages which we associate with the name. To walk along its old-world streets is a pleasure which cannot be enjoyed in any other great centre in the East. Shanghai is a busy cosmopolitan place with many attractions;

Hongkong, though perhaps not so commercial, has a natural beauty which gives a certain pre-eminence, but Manila represents in some degree a combination of both. It is of course true that neither in the volume of its business nor in the amount of its shipping can it equal either Shanghai or Hongkong, but it is growing. It is developing, if not with the rapidity of the mushroom cities of the United States, at any rate under the same progressive forces and influences which distinguish the cities of the new world from those of the old. By and by Manila, will be different from what we see to-day. Like the phoenix rising from the ashes of its dead self, a new city, a greater port, will be created which will rival in importance the trading and shipping centres of the East. At the same time it would be a pity to think that the many beautiful and historical features which characterise the city should disappear before the ruthless hand of commercial utility. Rather let the Manila of the future be a pleasing combination of ancient and modern, a happy commingling of East and West, each supplementing the other and combining to create a city of which its inhabitants will always be proud to say: "I am a citizen of no mean city."

So much for the city. Now let me try to tell you something of the people. In perhaps the same way as Manila suffers from misrepresentation, or at any rate misunderstanding, so do the people. The Americans are too often regarded as arrogant boasters, men of little culture or refinement, but association with them disproves that. They show a hospitality which puts us to shame. They do not seem to be able to do enough for the stranger within their gates. Everywhere one is met with the same open-handed generosity, the same genial, breezy, cordial welcome, the same firm, earnest handgrip. But what is most apparent here is that the Americans, with the same burning patriotism which has enabled them to make a great nation, show the same enthusiasm in the Philippines and are determined to see the Islands, with their capital, join the onward march of progressive peoples. It is this same spirit which makes the carnival the success that it is. Everybody seems to be talking and thinking of the carnival. Their one ambition seems to be to make the Carnival a powerful advertisement of the Islands and of Manila. About the result there cannot be the slightest doubt. The second carnival, benefiting by the experiences of the first, will be a greater success than its predecessor, and the publicity which it has gained will be ample reward for the self sacrificing labours of its promoters.

There was no formal opening of the Carnival. At four o'clock the gates were opened and the crowds streamed through the barriers. Music from the various Bands at different times marked the event, the Band of the Rajputs, which had taken up a prominent position in front of the statue of the Goddess of Liberty, leading off under Bandmaster Coke, while wild Moros marched through the grounds in procession. Then the fun of the fair commenced, but it was not till night that it reached its height. Then the gay throng promenaded the Carnival city, patronising the side shows, throwing confetti and enjoying all the fun and frolic for which Carnival. Many costumes were worn and this added materially to the gaiety of the scene. The great event, of course was the opening of the Hippodrome. An interesting pageant of all participating in the sports, led by the Rajputs Band, inaugurated the proceedings. Then followed wonderful exhibitions of cavalry and infantry drill, sprinting, chariotting, etc.; the programme concluding with a realistic attack on the walled city, the pyrotechnic display—which was the principal feature—being particularly brilliant.

Yesterday the tennis tournament commenced. The draw was unfavourable to Hongkong, as Captain Beasley and Lieut. Byrne opposed each other in the first round. This was the match of the afternoon, Beasley's steady plodding play getting him through by 7-5, 1-6, 6-3. Mr. McPherson, formerly of Hongkong, beat Capt. Brierley 6-4, 6-1, and Captain Whyte of The Buffs meets Mr. Robert Baldwin of the Manila A. A. to-day.

The preliminary round in the doubles is also to be played to-day.

The match between Hongkong and Manila is also set down for to-day.

The first polo team will be composed of Major Findlay, Commander Campbell, R.N., Lieut. Crookenden and Lieut. Green. Captain Brierley will probably take part in some of the subsequent matches.

The cricket team will include Captain Baird, Captain Beasley, Colonel Chamier, Captain Brierley, Captain Greenaway, Lieut. Bagnall, Lieut. Green, Lieut. Anderson, Lieut. Liepmann, Captain Dwyer, Lieut. Haughton. The umpire will be Lieut. Betton Foster.

Lance-Corpl. Andrews of The Buffs, who won the Army quarter-mile championship in South Africa, will figure on the track in the half and quarter mile events.

February 4th.

As one of the local newspapers expresses it "Manila has capitulated to fun and frolic." Business is not taken at all seriously these days, and, with or without the holidays being declared, the time is given up to merry making and to enjoying the spectacular effects provided by the processions and by the many costumed figures on the street. Were it not carnival time one would experience a shock on seeing a man attired in blazing green and red uniform and wearing a green helmet stalking along the busy Escolta or in meeting a grotesque figure of great height and considerable lack of beauty. But in business and in play the American seems to be thorough, and when the Filipinos are also joining in the play with all the joyousness of their light-hearted sunny dispositions it follows that there is little diversity in the realm of amusement over which King Carnival holds sway. How general is this sentiment will be understood when I mention that on the opening night as many as 25,000 paid for admission, but to this number has to be added another 10,000 at least. These figures in themselves will indicate the immense popularity of this Carnival.

The visiting journalists and others from Hongkong are being well looked after. In inviting them to become their guests for the event the Carnival Association had in view not merely giving greater publicity to the Carnival itself, but contemplated bringing about a better understanding between the cities of Hongkong and Manila. That this result is likely to be achieved there can be little doubt. A closer connection will demonstrate that the cities have something to gain from each other, and if no higher motives inspire their citizens that alone ought to bring about the more intimate relations which are desirable. Hongkong is a great financial centre to which those in the Islands look in some degree for assistance in developing the natural resources of the Philippines and reciprocally Hongkong capitalists will find much here to engage their consideration and attention.

Now a word about the Carnival itself. Yesterday the event of the day was the procession of floats. These represented various countries and many of them were undoubted works of art. While there was freedom for originality in design and execution they all adhered to the characteristic feature which distinguishes one country from another and the emblems introduced are exceedingly well worked out. The float representing Spain was one of the prettiest in an imposing pageant, and special mention should also be made of Egypt, Tibet and Japan. Dense crowds lined the route of the procession and the popularity of the institution was clearly demonstrated. The Sports attracted another large crowd to the Hippodrome at night.

Speaking of Sport reminds me that up till now Hongkong has been rather unfortunate. In the Tennis singles the representatives from the colony have been extinguished before the semi-final was reached. Captain Beasley, who had to beat one of his fellow travellers to get into the second round, was vanquished by the American Johnson in the next round by 6-4, 6-1, and Captain Brierley, who had also to overcome another Hongkong player in the first round met the same fate in the next round at the hands of Mr. R. MacPherson, of the Chartered Bank, formerly of Hongkong, while Mr. Norrie, the former Hongkong champion, defeated Mr. MacPherson in the third. In the doubles Hongkong has had the same ill fortune

in the draw, Captain Brierley and Lieut. Bryne having to meet Captain Baird and Commander Campbell in the first round. The former couple won—7-5, 6-1. The only consolation so far is that Norrie is fancied for the winner of the tournament. In Polo Hongkong has had no better luck. The first match yesterday resulted in the victory of the American team by six goals to one. In a measure this result was not unexpected. The visitors found the ponies higher and swifter than those to which they have been accustomed, but still they put up a good game. Play was very even and it was not till near the end of the sixth or seventh chukka that the home team obtained the decided lead with which they finished. The teams were:

The English team; 1. Commander Campbell R.N., 2. Lieutenant Crookenden, 3. Major Findley, 4. Lieutenant Green.

The American team; 1. Captain Babcock 1st Cavalry, 2. Lieutenant Adair, 10th Cavalry, 3. Lieutenant Koch, 4. Lieutenant Wainwright, 1st Cavalry.

In Athletics Hongkong too did not secure a win. L. Corpl. Andrews, of the Buffs, ran in the quarter mile race last night. His only real opponent was a coloured soldier who rejoices in the name of George Washington. He has just secured the championship of the Philippines. The runners got away well and Andrews took the lead but he was displaced in the first lap by the coon. The latter was not allowed to hold this advantage and Andrews again came to the front. The excitement became intense as the British soldier, running beautifully, increased his lead and looked like winning, but the fine stride of the negro brought him alongside and enabled him to breast the tape first about two feet ahead of his rival. It was a fine race, and the coloured man deserved his win. Andrews runs again to-night in the half mile race and it is hoped he will manage to pull off a win.

The Cricket Match did not take place yesterday as arranged but will be played on Sunday, when the Hongkong players will also engage in a series of doubles players of the Manila Club and the Athletic Association. [The results were given by telegram in our yesterday's issue.—Ed.]

I have already mentioned the open handed hospitality which is being extended to the visiting journalists. Not only have all the newspaper offices been placed at our disposal but we have received all the courtesies possible. We have received the open sesame to all the clubs. All the factories, institutions, are ready to receive us; and wherever we go there is the same cordial welcome. Yesterday by appointment we met His Excellency Governor-General Smith who received us very cordially and expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing so many journalists from Hongkong and hoped that we would return with good impressions of Manila. Not only that but he was desirous that we should see something of the Islands and arranged for our making a visit to Baguio, the Simla of the Philippines. In addition he offered us accommodation at the Malacanán, the Governor's Palace. Consequently we left his presence with very happy recollections of a genial old gentleman, a man who blends dignity with typical American breeziness of manner.

MANILA, February 5th.

The great event of the Carnival took place last night with the Carnival Ball and the coronation of the Queen of the Occident and the Queen of the Orient. The large auditorium, specially constructed for this great event and reserved for it, was opened to a dense crowd of costumed and masked people. Such a massing of colour it would be difficult to imagine, unless it were seen. Every conceivable hue was in evidence and everybody who had come under the influence of the Carnival spirit contributed their little quota to making the gathering the scene of brilliance and the remarkable spectacular effect that it was. All sorts of costumes were worn. Some indicated no little artistic sense, others betokened patient work and considerable skill, while others were creations of splendour. Bands discoursed selections to while away the time pending the decision as to who were to fill the thrones, and excitement became intense when two little girls were taken by the hand and led to the place where they drew lots. Fortune favoured Miss Helen Dorrington as the Queen of the Occident and Miss Julia

Agcaolli as Queen of the Orient. The curtains were then withdrawn, disclosing to view the courts of the two queens. The high priest placed the crown on the royal heads and amid the applause of the great assembly the ladies ascended the thrones. Homage was rendered them by their courtiers and the ball was opened by the queens and their attendants leading in the Grand March. Then joy was unconfined. The dance proceeded with vigour and the fun became general. Confetti was thrown with all the usual humorous accompaniments and nothing seemed to be lacking in the general happiness.

Yesterday the visiting Pressmen were entertained to tiffin by Mr. Gale, one of the directors, and among his guests were His Excellency the Governor and the leading officials of the Government. The pleasures of the table were much enhanced by the agreeable company and sociability of all present and the result certainly was to make those who sat down together, visitors and residents, better acquainted and with better impressions of each other.

To-day the frivolity was maintained with as much enthusiasm as was evinced on the opening day, a fact which is in itself a striking indication of the endurance of the American constitution. The crowds thronging the Carnival city are just as large and as gay as those we have witnessed every day, and if appearances are to be trusted there is not likely to be any falling off before the official closing of the great fête. The Hongkong visitors are not finding time hang heavily upon their hands. They are being shown the sights of the city and there are always plenty of cicerones to show them the lions. Those who found their way to the Observatory were well repaid for the trouble by the instructive explanations of the reverend assistant director while those who visited either of the cigar factories will not soon forget the courtesy they received or the generosity heaped upon them, particularly at the Germinal factory. Mr. M. A. Clarke, Manila's most enterprising citizen, is particularly attentive to the visiting journalists and he has placed his automobile at their disposal, thereby enabling them to see much of the beautiful surroundings of the city.

The surprise of the day in sport was the defeat of Captain Beasley and Lieut. White in the tennis doubles. They were expected to win. They undoubtedly play better tennis than their opponents but somehow the issue went against them, Izzard and Gee beating them on the last set, after a strenuous tussle. The figures were 1-6, 6-2, 8-6. Brierley and Bryne are now left to uphold the Hongkong reputation. Andrews, the sprinter, came up to expectations to-night at the Hippodrome. In the half mile race his chief rival was, of course, the coloured soldier George Washington, who snatched the honours from him two evenings ago in the quarter mile race. The five starters set off at a moderate pace, Andrews allowing the coon to show the way twice round. In the third round the Hongkong man put on a little spurt and passed Washington. This had the desired effect of frightening the coon into dashing off. Andrews held him and then in the last lap shot ahead at great speed and distanced the other by about ten yards. Washington sprinted for all he was worth but could not reduce the margin by less than two yards and the British soldier won comfortably. The victory was greatly applauded and a graceful compliment was paid by the band striking up the British National Anthem. Tomorrow (Saturday) night the two men will run a quarter mile for a cup valued at 500 Pesos presented by the military officers.

MANILA, 6th February.

HONGKONG'S SUCCESS.

The event which set the city a-talking was the visiting journalists taking over the *Manila Times* and producing a British edition. The make-up was completely altered. Advertisements appeared on the front page and the news was set up without the "scare headings" so common in American journals. The visiting pressmen recorded their impressions of the city, wrote up interviews which they had obtained with men of the moment, including the Governor and introduced several new features. The innovation was greatly appreciated and the publishers were sold out before evening. In an

editorial the *Cablenews* expressed a liking for the British style but declared it would not do in Manila.

His Excellency the Governor General invited the Hon. Mr. Hewett, the visiting and Manila pressmen and several local gentlemen to tiffin at Malacanán, his official residence. After the visitors had enjoyed His Excellency's hospitality they were shown over the beautiful old Spanish house, admiring to the full the fine floors and furniture and the many works of art which it contained.

Great interest in the evening centred in the 440 yards race to be run between Andrews of Hongkong and Washington, the Philippines champion, for a cup subscribed for by the military officers. It was feared that the heavy rain during the day would have spoiled the track but the good time made in the preliminary events showed that its state was satisfactory. When the struggle between the champions was announced the vast assembly cheered heartily. Both men got off well. The coloured man made the pace and seemed determined to run all he knew from the start, but Andrews kept him well in hand. On coming into the straight the coon had a lead of six or eight yards. It looked as if the Britisher had let him get too far ahead but with a magnificent sprint he quickly reduced the distance and dashed to the tape with a yard to spare. The enthusiasm of the crowd was boundless. While the band played the British National Anthem, visitors carried the victor shoulder high to the front of the royal box. Andrews thus brings to Hongkong two cups for this race a gold medal for the half mile race and a silver medal for being second in the first quarter mile race.

7th February

In the morning the postponed cricket match was played, and, as was to be expected, resulted in an easy win for the visitors by 175 to 50. They, however, fared badly at polo in the afternoon, being beaten by eight goals to nil. It has to be remembered that the Hongkong men were at a disadvantage in riding horses which were bigger and speedier than those which they are accustomed to ride.

A parade of motor cars, showing original floral designs and some very beautiful effects, took place in the afternoon. After this the crowds making their way to the Carnival were more numerous than at any other time during the week. The Lunetta was one mass of animation, motor cars, carriages and pedestrians completely filling every approach to the Carnival City.

At night a concert, in which the massed bands, took part, appealed to the music loving portion of the community, while the frolic outside attracted others.

To-night we bade adieu to Manila and its hospitable citizens, and we boarded the *Zafiro* feeling that the visit had helped to create a better understanding between Hongkong and Manila.

Another masked ball took place on Monday night and the Carnival closed on Tuesday with an extravaganza of all the fun and frolic which had reigned throughout the eight days and nights.

MISTAKEN FOR A DUTCHMAN.

The captain of a coastal steamer, who until on Feb. 5th had succeeded in keeping out of the way of a summons which the police took out to serve upon him early in January, appeared before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday on a charge of not having rat phlanges attached to the ropes of his vessel while she was made fast to the wharf.

When evidence had been adduced his Worship asked the captain whether he had anything to say, and the defendant, taking all those in Court into his confidence, told his Worship a story which apparently incensed the sergeant who served the summons. "Between ourselves" said the versatile skipper, "my chief officer took the constable who came aboard for a Dutchman, and was disgusted to see him wearing the King's uniform, for, as a matter of fact, my officer is a Dutchman himself."

The remark brought a smile to all faces but that of the sergeant, and his Worship imposed a fine of \$10.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

VIEWS OF HONGKONG MERCHANTS.

The following correspondence has been forwarded by the Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce for publication:

Hongkong, 9th December, 1908.

To the Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT,
Chairman, Hongkong General Chamber
of Commerce.

SIR,—We have the honour to bring to your attention:—

(a) Copy of a letter dated the 9th instant addressed by us to the Colonial Secretary.

(b) Copy of a letter dated 23rd September last addressed by us to the Acting Consul-General at Canton, and referred to in (a) enclosed herewith. [This was published in the *Hongkong Weekly Press* of Nov. 25th, 1908].

These letters fully set forth the views of the Merchants engaged in the Opium Trade upon the attitude of the Chinese Authorities in seeking to impose restrictions on the sale of Raw Opium, which we contend are contrary to the rights conferred by Treaty enabling Raw Opium and all merchandise in any quantity whether large or small, to be freely sold to anyone wishing to purchase same, without let or hindrance.

We need scarcely add that in consequence of the endeavour of the Chinese to enforce the Regulations which are objected to, an element of uncertainty, with a resulting want of confidence, has been introduced into the Opium Trade, which is having a serious effect on the business.

We therefore beg that you will lay this important matter before your Committee at an early date with a view to the taking of such further steps, as they may deem advisable to protect the particular and weighty interests involved. We have, &c.,

DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.

E. D. SASSOON & Co.,

S. J. DAVID & Co.,

L. PABANEY,

TATA SONS & Co.

H. M. H. NEMAZEE,

M. H. E. ELLIAS,

P. F. TALATI,

CAWASJEE PALLANJEE & Co.,

P. B. PETIT & Co.

Hongkong, 8th December, 1908.

To The Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, in which you are directed to inform us that His Excellency the Governor has received a dispatch from his Majesty's Minister at Peking to the effect that he regards it as doubtful that the Regulations, as they stand at present, can be regarded as establishing a monopoly; that they appear to do little more than reproduce the rules passed for the enforcement of the Opium Edict of September 20th 1906 and that he has accordingly instructed His Majesty's Consul General at Canton that, while the working of the system would doubtless require to be carefully watched, it is inadvisable to take further action pending reference to His Majesty's Government.

We have in our letter to Mr. Harry H. Fox, H.B.M.'s Consul General at Canton, of the 23rd September last (copy of which was forwarded to you in our letter of the 15th September and copy of which is hereunto annexed) so fully dealt with the pernicious effect that these Regulations will have, if brought into force, upon the Raw Opium Trade, that no useful object would be gained by recapitulating them save to again contend that it must be obvious that if analysed in detail to a logical conclusion, the Regulations sought to be enforced in the Two Kwangs, and in particular the Regulations that "after the ascertainment and registration of the number of opium shops in the Province of the Two Kwangs now in existence no new opium shops doing business in the buying and selling of raw and prepared opium will be allowed to be established;" tend to the idea that the primary intention is the creation of a monopoly amongst a certain number of existing opium shops, which shops will, as time goes on, decrease in number by either:—

(a) Retirement from business.

(b) Seizure and closure by the Authorities of the shops for infringement or alleged infringement of the law, and

(c) The purchase by capitalists of the shops and of the licences.

In the course of time, therefore, the sale of raw opium will be in the hands of a few, thus creating a monopoly.

We cannot agree, therefore with the dictum of His Majesty's Minister at Peking that he is doubtful if the Regulations, as they stand at present, can be regarded as establishing a monopoly. We contend that the Regulations, if carried into stringent effect, will form the nucleus of a monopoly expressly contrary to the Treaty of Nanking.

We contend that the same must be said of Article 5 of the eleven articles for carrying out the Prohibition of Opium if it is brought into force in China. It reads as follows:—

"To closely inspect opium shops in order to facilitate preventive measures."

and which Article is further explained as follows:—

"All shops in any city, town or village which sell the raw drug or prepared opium must be severally inspected by the local Authorities who will draw up a list of them in the form of a register and issue to each a licence which will constitute their permit to carry on this trade. Once the inspection has been made no addition to the opium shops will be allowed."

It further adds:—

"Shops which from time to time drop out of the business must surrender their licences for cancellation. The licence must not be kept under penalty or a heavy fine."

Surely this enactment would create a monopoly and be contrary to Treaty. In course of time the trade will obviously be in the hands of a few Chinese merchants.

We would refer you to Article 5 of the British Treaty of Nanking of 1842 to Article 10 of the same treaty, and to Article 14 of the French Treaty of Tientsin of 1858, which for convenience we give in full:—

Article V. of the British Treaty of Nanking 1842:—

"The Government of China having compelled the British Merchants trading at Canton to deal exclusively with certain Chinese Merchants called Hong Merchants (or co-Hong) who had been licensed by the Chinese Government for this purpose, the Emperor of China agrees to abolish that practice in future at all ports where British Merchants may reside, and to permit them to carry on their mercantile transactions with whatever persons they please, and His Imperial Majesty further agrees to pay to the British Government the sum of three millions of dollars, on account of debts due to British subjects by some of the said Hong Merchants or co-Hong, who have become insolvent and who owe very large sums of money to subjects of Her Britannic Majesty."

Article X of the same treaty:—

"His Majesty the Emperor agrees to establish at all the ports which are by Article II of this Treaty to be thrown open for the resort of British Merchants, a fair and regular tariff of export and import customs and other dues, which tariff shall be publicly notified and promulgated for general information; the Emperor further engages that, when British Merchandise shall have once paid at any of the said ports the regulated customs and dues, agreeable of the tariff to be hereafter fixed, such merchandise may be conveyed by Chinese Merchants to any province or city in the interior of the Empire of China on paying a further amount as transit duties, which shall not exceed per cent on the tariff value of such goods."

Article XIV of the French Treaty of Tientsin 1858:—

"Aucune société de commerce privilégiée ne pourra désormais s'établir en Chine, et il en sera de même de toute coalition organisée dans le but d'exercer une monopole sur le commerce. En cas de contravention en présence article les autorités chinoises sur les représentations du consul ou de l'agent consulaire, aviseront aux moyens de dissoudre de semblables associations dont elles s'efforceront d'ailleurs de prévenir

"l'existence par des prohibitions préalables afin d'écartier tout ce qui pourrait porter atteinte à la libre concurrence."

We would wish to lay special stress upon the fact that by the Regulations now sought to be enforced by China, the right allowed by Treaty to all Merchants, whether British or otherwise, to sell their opium to anyone, is taken away, and that the "société de commerce privilégiée" as quoted above, has been practically brought into existence again: thus reviving an abuse which led to misunderstandings between the European Powers and China and against which the Treaties of that period were specially intended to safeguard Free Trade in the future.

We submit that if Article 5 of the Edict is carried out, in course of time, the number of dealers in raw opium will dwindle to a very small number, healthy competition will cease, and the British Merchant will be at the mercy of the few native shops left in the trade.

Inasmuch as the Indian Opium Trade has already been regulated by the Government of India and will under the conditions agreed upon by Great Britain and China, entirely cease in the course of ten years, there is absolutely no reason whatever for the Chinese Government to interfere in any way with this trade by issuing vexatious notifications to the public, as has been done lately by the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs. Therefore, any interference on the part of the Chinese Government with the Indian Opium Trade cannot possibly be with any legitimate object. Provincial Authorities all over the Empire are quite capable of using the Imperial Edict for the purpose of raising revenue, or with the ulterior object of taking advantage of the situation in order to be able to squeeze the populace. We have only in this regard to refer to the recent action of the Viceroy of Nanking in order to show how far this can be carried into effect by unscrupulous authorities.

The Merchants in China have a very strong claim on the British Government to protect their trade against this interference by the Chinese, not only the ordinary protection due to legitimate British trade, but from the fact that the merchants buy direct from the Government of India at the Government's monthly sales in Calcutta, and it is the duty of the British Government to see that the Merchants get a fair and unhindered outlet for the opium purchased from them.

It is incumbent on the British Government, before they allow the opium trade to depart entirely from India and from British merchants dealing with the Indian Government, to see that China is really doing her share to eradicate the so-called evil.

The report of Mr. Leach clearly shows that the British Government is keeping well ahead of the Chinese Government in the steps taken to stamp out the opium habit, although British trade is only one-eighth to one-tenth of the whole of the Opium consumed in China.

The production in China of native opium being 8 to 10 times as large as the total import of the foreign drug, the cultivation of China opium is the thing to watch, not so much the foreign trade, and the only way to stop opium smoking in China is by getting the provincial authorities to curtail the production of the native drug, otherwise, while our trade will dwindle, Chinese opium will flourish, and derive the benefit of the falling off of British trade, and this is surely what the Chinese provincial officials desire, and in this regard we would call attention to Sir Edward Grey's despatch to Sir M. Durand dated October 17th, 1906, where in he says:

"If on the other hand, China was simply to prevent the importation of foreign opium in order that individual Chinese might grow more opium themselves and realise a higher price for it in China, then it would be useless for us to make sacrifices."

"Us" there, means Great Britain, or in other words, the Government of India and Great Britain's merchants dealing in raw opium.

We would wish that it should be pointed out to the British Government that it is a known fact that China not only consumes ten times as much more opium than is imported into China but she also exports China grown opium to Hongkong, Saigon, Singapore, Bangkok and other places.

Mr. Leach, Councillor at the British Legation, in his second Report on the Opium Question states:—

"Since the end of November 1907 when the 'previous General Report on the Anti-Opium' movement was written, the two most 'noticeable features have been the continued 'interest and energy shown by the Central Government in the question, as compared 'with the growing apathy evinced by the 'provincial officials, and their lack of sustained 'effort to eradicate the evil'."

As the provincial officials are expected to carry out the Edicts, their actions are chiefly to be considered, and not the ineffective Edicts issued by the Central Government. We entirely fail to see why His Britannic Majesty's Minister should lay stress on the Opium Edict of September 20th 1906, which is merely an Edict or wish expressed by the Government of China, and has never, to our knowledge, become a Treaty between the Chinese Government and the British Government. We would point out that Treaties do exist between England and China regarding the former's trade and commerce, and we submit that so long as those Treaties remain unrepealed, British Merchants trading in the Far East, and, as we have already pointed out, purchasing their merchandise direct from the British Government, should have the protection afforded them by those Treaties.

The result of the two recent attempts by the Viceroy of Nanking and by the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs, to interfere with legitimate trade have on each occasion caused a heavy drop in prices, and a falling off in deliveries, resulting in heavy loss to the British Merchants and a complete disorganization of the trade in Raw Opium.

We would emphasize the fact that pressure was brought to bear upon the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs by the energetic action of the Consul-General in Canton so that the Regulations which he sought to enforce throughout the Kwangtung Province were withdrawn in the City of Canton, yet in other Prefectures these Regulations have been brought into force, native dealers in raw opium have been fined and imprisoned by the Provincial Authorities at Chiu Chow and Wui Chow, thus causing extreme uneasiness amongst the local Chinese, which has prevented them purchasing raw opium and thus causing a complete disorganization of the Trade and a violent decline in prices, resulting in much loss to the Foreign Merchant and a general want of confidence in the future.

Finally, we would wish to point out that British interests are so widely and heavily involved in the opium trade that the whole question should be approached with the utmost gravity. Before the British Government involve themselves in further diplomatic action with the Chinese, conclusive proof should be adduced to clearly show that the Chinese Authorities are not only well intentioned, but have taken steps at least proportionately equal to those being taken by way of curtailing the production by the British Government.

It may not be out of place to here give a few of the most important interests connected with the trade which will suffer and to emphasize the serious blow that will result to British Commerce if the opium trade is to cease in the course of a few years:—

- 1 A loss of over Five million pounds sterling to India on the sale of Raw Opium alone.
- 2 A heavy blow to British merchants engaged in the trade.
- 3 A heavy loss to steamer owners, mostly British, as nearly all opium is carried in British bottoms.
- 4 A heavy loss to Fire Insurance Companies, mostly British, who insure whilst it is stored upon land.
- 5 A heavy loss to Marine Insurance Companies, mostly British, who insure raw opium whilst it is being carried on ship board.
- 6 A great loss to the British trade of Hongkong and Shanghai and the Treaty ports, involving indirectly losses to labour, property and various other interests.—We have &c.,

DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.,
E. D. SASSOON & Co.,
R. PABANEY,
TATA SONS & Co.,
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,

M. H. E. ELLIAS,
P. F. TALATI,
CAWASJEE PALLANJEE & Co.,
P. B. PETIT & Co.

HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Hongkong, 8th January, 1909.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the British firms dealing in raw opium in this Colony have forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce a copy of their letter to you dated 9th ultimo, and of theirs to the Consul General at Canton dated 23rd September, with a request that my Committee take such steps as may appear desirable to assist them in combatting the action now being taken by the Chinese Authorities in the Two Kwang which is calculated to hamper the trade in imported opium.

This letter has been considered by my Committee who are entirely in accord with the view expressed by the British Merchants in the two letters above referred to.

The letters in question have so dealt with the matter that little remains to be added.

My Committee consider that the Merchants have made out a clear case of breach of treaty against the Officials in the neighbouring provinces. It cannot, in the opinion of my Committee, be denied that the regulations now being enforced to limit the number of existing dealers in raw opium and to prevent new firms from coming into existence do amount to a breach of the Treaties. They consequently view with considerable uneasiness the attitude taken up by His Majesty's Minister at Peking in this matter as they fear that this cannot but result in encouraging the Provincial Officials to still further aggressive acts against foreign trade.

My Committee therefore wish to join with the writers of the previous letters in their protest against the enforcement of the regulations complained of, and trust that after full consideration of the matter His Excellency will see his way to represent this in the proper quarters, with a view to a repeal of the new opium regulations.

In conclusion I would beg to refer to the Chairman's letter to you of 3rd September, 1907, when dealing with the attempted monopoly in raw opium which the Viceroy of Nanking was then endeavouring to establish. In the opinion of my Committee the present position taken up by the Viceroy of the Two Kwang will have an equally restricting effect upon the trade as that attempted by the Nanking Authorities, and the arguments in the above letter apply therefore equally in the present case. —I have &c.,

Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
11th January, 1909.

SIRS,—In reply to your letter of 9th December last, I am directed to enclose herewith for the information of yourselves and co-signatories a copy of this Chamber's letter to the Government dated 8th instant, in which the Committee have supported your protest against the action of the Chinese Authorities of the Two Kwang in instituting regulations calculated to hamper the trade in imported opium.—I am, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Messrs. David Sassoon & Company, Limited.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1909.

SIR,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing copy of the Chamber's letter to the Government dated 8th instant and have duly circulated same amongst the firms interested in the Opium Trade.

Kindly accept our best thanks for the support your Committee have given to our protest against the action of the Chinese Authorities in instituting regulations calculated to hamper our trade.—We are, &c.,

DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.,
E. SHELLIM, Manager.

The Secretary,
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
15th January, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant con-

cerning the action now being taken by the Chinese Authorities in the Two Kwang Provinces, which is calculated to hamper the trade in imported opium, and to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has transmitted a copy of your letter to Sir John Jordan and that this matter has for some time past been engaging His Excellency's serious attention.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

THE OPIUM COMMISSION.

OPENING CEREMONY.

The opening of the International Opium Commission on the 1st inst. attracted considerable attention in Shanghai. It was the principal topic of conversation during the day, and the large crowd that assembled outside the doors of the Palace Hotel to witness the arrival and departure of the Chinese officials and the delegates was a convincing proof of the widespread interest which was taken in the event.

The hour fixed for the opening ceremony was 11 a.m. and most of the delegates were on the scene of their future labours well ahead of time. The Viceroy himself set a good example in this respect. His Excellency's brougham, escorted by Sikh troopers and a detachment of native police on their unkempt but sturdy ponies, arrived at the hotel entrance at 10.45. From then until 11 there was a constant stream of arrivals; and both the electric lifts of the hotel were working at full pressure to carry all the visitors to top floor.

The room in which the Commission meets is a commodious chamber at the East end of the new block, down a corridor opposite the main dining room. In close proximity are the offices of the American and Chinese Delegations, in the latter of which the Viceroy remained until the time for the ceremony arrived.

The session hall of the Commission is suitably furnished for the occasion with comfortable chairs and about twenty baize-covered tables, while the walls of the room are hung with the national flags of the respective delegates. Seats were allocated by lot, each nationality drawing from a box the number of its table.

Attendance at the opening ceremony was strictly limited. Only the delegates, the Viceroy's suite, and a few representatives of the native and foreign press were admitted.

The entrance of China's High Commissioner was the signal for all present to rise to their feet, and they remained standing while the Viceroy, escorted by the members of his Foreign Department, threaded his way across the room, and mounted the Chairman's dais. Taking his seat, with a graceful sweep of his hand the Viceroy invited his audience to be seated. A photograph of the assembly was then taken, after which in low tones H. E. Tuan Fang explained the reason of his presence. He rose to his feet when reading the Decree appointing him High Commissioner for the special purpose of opening the Commission, and everyone in the room stood until the reading of the Imperial mandate was finished. Another wave of the Viceregal hand and the audience resumed their seats. The Viceroy himself sat down, adjusted his spectacles, and then in almost inaudible tones began to read his address. In a few seconds he appeared to gain confidence and raised his voice, so that most of his words could be heard throughout the room. Occasionally he paused in his reading, had a hurried consultation with one of his staff, and altered some phrase that was not to his liking. The speech was read from a crumpled manuscript in which several corrections and additions had already been made. Having concluded the reading of his speech the Viceroy called upon Taotai Wan to read the English translation, and a minute or two later was engaged in audible conversation with a member of his staff.

Taotai Wan came to the front of the platform, and read the translation of the Viceroy's address in loud clear tones. The translation read was as follows:

Gentlemen.—On the 20th of September, 1906, an Imperial Edict was issued prohibiting the cultivation and use of Opium throughout

the Empire within the period of ten years. According to a Report from the Ministry concerned the result of an inquiry into the question shows that up to the present progress has been made in reducing the area under cultivation of the poppy plant in the various provinces.

As a matter of fact, the area where the poppy has been cultivated in the Kiangnan portion of Kiangsu province, has been now reduced by eighty per cent while it is on record that from the six provinces of Shansi, Yunnan, Fukien, Anhui, Honan and Heilungkiang, or Northern Manchuria, memorials have been presented to the Throne reporting that the cultivation of the poppy will be entirely stopped by the winter of the present year in the above provinces. Even more than that, the gentry and merchants of the various provinces of the Empire have everywhere started societies to exhort and assist opium smokers to get rid of the baneful habit. For instance, we have an Association in Fukien province known as the Anti-Poison Society which has been making considerable progress in its campaign against the drug.

Indeed, from the present outlook, together with the state of Public Opinion throughout our Empire, there are great hopes that the consumption of Opium can be stopped in its entirety before the end of the prescribed limit of ten years.

To-day it is my good fortune to be present at this International Conference having been appointed by Imperial Rescript to open the proceedings. I am convinced that the countries of the world recognize the benevolence and philanthropy which have led to the gathering of the present Conference in the interests of civilization, and I may state that the people of our whole Empire are most grateful for it. It will need more eloquence than mine fittingly to express the cordial welcome with which our country hails the inauguration of this International Opium Conference, but I may take this opportunity, first, respectfully to tender the thanks of my Government and that of the people of this Empire to the American Government for initiating the movement which has brought about this Conference, and next, to thank the Governments of the various countries here represented for so heartily joining in it.

As the Representative of the whole Empire I beg leave to give this Conference some of our ideas on the subject in view.

I may be permitted to express my belief that this Conference will be principally guided by feelings of reason, benevolence and philanthropy in its desire to eradicate a poison and a bane to mankind. This being universally recognised, it becomes us to put aside all prejudices of nationality and race and be guided solely by that world-wide philanthropy and enlightenment which have brought about this International Conference. For instance, the manner in which the Governments of the countries concerned have set about to stop the consumption of opium in their colonies and dependencies such as Formosa, Annam, the Philippine Islands, Java, etc., has been to undertake the monopoly of the sale of opium therein, a procedure which China alone has not yet put into actual force. As a matter of fact, the mere prohibition of opium without the Government having the monopoly of the sale of the drug will prevent the Government from learning the number of persons suffering from the habit, nor can it put into effect any laws for the suppression of opium consumption. Mr. Leech, Councillor of the British Legation in Peking, has stated—"Whether China can completely obtain the good she seeks without Government control of opium, both native-grown and imported, is somewhat doubtful," an opinion which gains my deep admiration for his wisdom and far-sightedness, and merits our sincere thanks for his warm sympathy in our endeavours. What, however, is to be apprehended is that Chinese merchants importing opium may claim that such a step will be contrary to former treaties and be disadvantageous to their trade and so oppose it, thereby preventing China from putting into effect a proper control over opium and the spread of the opium prohibition throughout the country. Thus not only will it not agree with the sincere intentions first expressed by the British Government to give every assistance to China but it

will also be a hindrance to the movement initiated by the American Government; nor will it enable the various countries represented in this Conference to show their unanimity in assisting this Conference to solve the questions before it. This is a matter to be regretted, indeed, and it is my earnest hope that this Conference will thoroughly go into this matter during its deliberations.

It was at first intended to limit the abolition of opium in the Empire to ten years, but the various provinces have been able to so reduce the cultivation of the poppy that it would seem that this cultivation may be entirely stopped within the next couple of years. Moreover the sale of prepared opium has also been rapidly reduced to over one half, so that we may certainly be able to entirely stop the sale and consumption of the native grown opium within the prescribed limit of ten years. With the complete stoppage of our native grown opium it would follow that the importation of the foreign drug will also stop as a natural sequence. Such being the case the people of my country will have reason to congratulate themselves on what has gone before and this we owe to the assistance given by the British Government and to the labours of the American Government in initiating the movement which brought about this Conference. On the other hand the attempts of this Government to suppress opium are hampered by existing treaties. Should a way be found by which such clauses in the treaties that restrict the freedom of my Government in its work of abolishing the consumption of the drug in the Empire may be got over with, so that we may succeed in accomplishing our great and important task—fortunate indeed will it be for our Government and the people of this Empire. It is my earnest hope that this Conference will use its best endeavours to thresh out this question.

On the whole, since the main object of this Conference will be to consider the question of putting a stop to the consumption of opium, fortunate indeed will it be for the whole world if by the labours of the Conference a way be found to shorten the limit and bring about the abolition of opium at an early date. I do not think that national interests and division of races will be brought forward and produce difficulties between our countries, thereby hampering the work of opium abolition.

What is the meaning of the phrase "To seek for gain and yet fear to overcome difficulties?" The honourable gentlemen who are present this day as members of the conference have all been selected by their respective Governments for their benevolence, philanthropy and fame. Since such is the case I am certain that no one amongst this distinguished assembly will act contrary to the benevolent and enlightened objects which have brought them together here. I will therefore be the first to declare to this Conference that the Government and people of my country are determined to succeed in their object and will not by any means turn aside from accomplishing the task before them.

As to the methods to be employed in accomplishing this end the main idea will be to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy, the sale of the drug and the consumption thereof. It is only to be apprehended that in putting into effect the law for this prohibition it may conflict with certain clauses of the treaties. It is my hope that this Conference will carefully investigate the matter beforehand so that there may be no misunderstandings in the future. In this my speech I do not know whether I have been successful in gaining the approval of the honourable gentlemen of this distinguished assembly, but I am ready to receive such suggestions as may be instructive to me from this honourable assembly, whereby I shall indeed be fortunate. Therefore, I now declare this Conference open.

Immediately after the Viceroy's speech had been read M. Ratard Consul-General and Senior Commissioner for France rose, and addressing the Viceroy in French, preferred a request that French should be the official language of the Commission. He referred to the Waiwupu's order that the French tongue should be the official medium of diplomatic intercourse, and asked that, if not the language of

the Commission, it should be placed on an equality with English in its deliberation.

M. Kleimenow, Consul-General for Russia, stated that proposal had his hearty support.

When the matter was explained to the Viceroy he appeared to be unwilling to decide such a knotty question off hand, but at once rose and left the room. He superintended personally the alterations in his manuscript in the Chinese Reception Office, and then returned to his carriage and drove away. As he was leaving, the applause that greeted the election of Bishop Brent to the position of Chairman of the Commission could be heard.

Immediately the Viceroy left the Commission held its first session in camera. After the election of Bishop Brent as Chairman, Mr. F. W. Carey of the Imperial Maritime Customs was appointed Secretary and M. Leon de Gieter, Assistant Secretary of the Commission.

It is understood that the question of making the deliberations bilingual will be decided by a sub-committee.

After the transaction of formal business the Commission adjourned until 2 p.m. to-day.

In the evening the delegates and the Consular Body were entertained to dinner by the Chinese Officials, but the Viceroy was unable to be present. This evening a dinner will be given the Commission by the American delegates, also in the Palace Hotel.—*N. C. Daily News*, Feb. 2nd

At its sittings on February 1 and 2, the Commission was engaged on business of a purely formal nature, a Committee being meanwhile at work drawing up Rules of Procedure, etc.

On re-assembling at 11 a.m. on the 5th instant, M. de Gieter notified his inability to take up his duties as Assistant Secretary. M. Laforcade, Secretary to the French delegation, was therefore appointed Assistant Secretary, and Mr. True official stenographer to the Commission.

The Committee on Rules and Order then presented its report, and the Rules drawn up were all accepted, with some amendments, by the Commission, which adjourned at 12.30 p.m. It was agreed that both English and French should, on principle, be recognized as the languages to be used in the Commission, and that steps should be taken to ensure that the deliberations be rendered, if necessary, and the minutes recorded in both languages.

The Commission met again at 2.30 p.m., and, after appointing a Press Committee, listened to the summary of a report presented by the United States delegation, dealing with the opium question in America and the Philippines. Reports were also handed in by the British delegation (for Great Britain, Australia, Hong-kong, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Federated Malay States, and Weihaiwei), and the Japanese delegation (for Japan and Formosa). A few remarks were offered on presentation of these reports, but there was no debate, it being understood that members of the several delegations will require time to study the reports, before they will be in a position to discuss any portion of them.

China will hand in a report on Monday morning, whilst the reports from India and Canada, and those prepared by the other delegations, will be presented later.

The Commission did not sit on Saturday, and at 3.30 p.m. it adjourned until 11 a.m. on Monday the 3th instant.

The Commission resumed its sittings at 10.30 on Monday morning last.

Mr. Tang Kai-son presented a report dealing with the opium question in China, with explanatory remarks as to the sources of information that had been drawn upon. He reviewed the situation in China generally, and announced that a Supplementary Report, embodying later news concerning the anti-opium movement, etc., would be laid on the table at some future date.

The report Germany (including Kiaochow) was presented by Dr. Rössler and the Netherlands Report by M. de Jongh.

The Commission adjourned at 12.30 p.m., and on re-assembling at 2 p.m. listened to a report on Siam, presented by Phya Sakdi Seni. The reports of other delegations not being ready for presentation, the Commission adjourned at 3 p.m. till Wednesday at 10.0 a.m.

CHINESE OPIUM STATISTICS.

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON.

In our leading article on Tuesday attention was incidentally drawn to some statistics of the cultivation of opium in China which were contained in a Memorial to the Throne and published by Imperial rescript in October last year. These statistics represented the total production of Chinese opium to be but two or three times as large as the foreign import, while in the opinion of the British Opium Merchants the native production is from eight to ten times as much. The notorious unreliability of Chinese statistics was mentioned in the article, and as evidence of this our attention has been drawn to other statistics, which must necessarily have been obtained by the British Legation from Chinese official sources, and we give below in parallel columns two returns in piculs for the year 1906—the one taken from the Rescript above referred to, the other from a Report on the Opium Question in China (No 1 of 1908) laid before Parliament last February:—

Province.	Imperial Rescript. Piculs.	British Report. Piculs.
Manchuria.....	10,940	15,000
Chihli.....	3,870	10,000
Kanso.....	7,988	5,000
Shansi.....	9,666	5,000
Shantung.....	6,863	10,000
Shensi.....	10,815	10,000
Honam.....	5,283	5,000
Kiangso.....	9,919	5,000
Szechuan.....	57,463	200,000
Hupei.....	1,293	4,000
Anhui.....	4,048	3,000
Yunnan.....	7,928	30,000
Kweichow.....	9,940	15,000
Hunan.....	158	3,000
Kwangsi (Practically Suppressed.)	500	500
Chekiang.....	4,724	5,000
Kwangsi.....	under 1	3,000
Kwangtung.....	77	500
Fukien.....	1,514	2,000
Shanghai.....	—	—
Hongkong.....	—	—

Piculs 148,100 331,000

As representing what is covered presumably by the term "Manchuria" in the British report we have given from the return incorporated in the Rescript the total production for Shenking, Kirin, Amur and the New Territory.

It will be seen at a glance that the figures supplied to the British official who was charged with the special duty of collecting the information are more than twice as large as the figures quoted in the Imperial Rescript, and those who know how largely the incomes of provincial officials in China are supplemented by "squeeze" have ample justification for assuming that the returns supplied for the purposes of the British Legation report are considerably under-stated rather than exaggerated.

OPIUM IN YUNNAN.

PROGRESS UNDER VICEROY HSI LIANG.

The Yunnanfu correspondent of the N.C. Daily News telegraphed on the 3rd inst. as follows:—

H.E. Hsi Liang, Viceroy of Yunnan and Kweichow, informed me during an interview to-day that the production of opium in Yunnan had been reduced by about nine-tenths, and consumption by about half.

Likin barriers have been commanded to confiscate and refuse to pass any opium for export after the past Chinese year. Opium not passed by the Customs during the year that has just closed is liable to be confiscated and destroyed, and opium passed by the native Customs before the end of last year must be taken out of Yunnan by April 20 or it will be confiscated and destroyed.

The cultivation, as well as the consumption of opium is now strictly prohibited throughout the province, and offenders against this rule are punished and their crops ruthlessly destroyed.

Almost without exception the farmers throughout the province are complying with the opium regulations. Only two officials have displayed antagonism to the enforcement of the regulations.

Thousands upon thousands of opium pipes have been confiscated, and now adorn the city gates.

The Viceroy is confident of complete victory, and anticipates no serious troubles. He pushes his reforms with heroic courage and a determination worthy of the highest praise. He emphasized the importance, however, of the neighbouring provinces following the example set by Yunnan, saying that what has been achieved in the most degraded province of China may be accomplished throughout the Empire.

The Viceroy appreciated highly the stand America has taken in regard to opium and expressed his hope that England would stand by China in her struggle with the opium problem.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

January 4th.

THE BIG FIRE AT TAI-SHA-TAU.

The Chief Superintendent of Police here has sent in his official report of the disastrous fire at Tai-sha-Tau. He states that about 500 lives were lost and 61 boats were completely destroyed. The River Police saved the lives of 111 people. The Canton Rescue Society picked up 102 persons from the river; many of these were burnt or otherwise injured. They were all sent to the Red Cross Society Hospital for treatment. Lan Kai Tong, Captain of the *Loong Yeung* gunboat saved 14 people and the Captain of the *On Tai* saved four.

The River Police recovered 120 dead bodies, the Charitable Societies recovered about 100 dead bodies, and about 100 dead bodies were recovered by the relatives of those who were drowned.

VICEROY'S OPINION.

His Excellency Viceroy Chang is very wroth with the officials who patronised the flower-boats on that night. He has caused inquiries to be made as to the names of all officials who were present and have escaped and has decided to memorialize the Throne to have them punished for disobeying the State mourning rules. He will also ask that the titles and ranks of the officials who perished be cancelled. Notwithstanding that the Pekinese "Sing Song" girls near the Eastern gate paid a royalty of \$9,000 to the Government only a few months ago they have received notice to quit their quarters within 14 days as they are too close to the yamens, and easy of access for the officials.

DROWNING FATALITY.

A young marine from the French gunboat *Vigilante* was accidentally drowned yesterday morning. He lost his balance and fell overboard. Not being able to swim he sank at once. Lieutenant D'Harcourt gallantly jumped after him, but, in spite of his courageous efforts, was unable to find the body; the waters of the Canton River being so turbid that nothing can be seen under water. The body was picked up a little later by means of boat hooks, and although everything was done by the doctors in attendance all efforts at resuscitation failed. The funeral takes place this afternoon.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS TO FOREIGNERS FORBIDDEN.

The Board of Posts and Communications has sent a dispatch to Viceroy Chang instructing him not to grant any Railway Concessions in the Liang Kwong Provinces to foreigners and that in future all railways must be constructed with Chinese capital and labour. Matters regarding railway affairs must all be referred to the Board. If capital is wanting for the construction of any railways in the two provinces, the Board will devise means to raise the necessary funds. Foreigners can only construct railways within the boundary of their concessions. The Viceroy is instructed to dispatch deputies to the Foreign territory to see that the foreign railway terminus does not go beyond the concession boundary. The Viceroy is also instructed to protest against all foreigners who obtain passports under the pretext travelling into the interior but whose main object is to survey land for the purposes of construction of railways, or repairing of railway lines etc., etc.

MACAO.

THE VISIT OF ADMIRAL LAMBTON.

A guard of honour was present at the naval wharf at the Barra when Admiral Lambton paid a visit to Macao on Wednesday, and a salute was fired from the gunboat *Patria*. The Admiral dined at Government House, and afterwards accompanied by H.E. the Governor, visited the Camões Garden, and other sights of the city, returning to the *Alacrity* at five o'clock.

GARRISON RELIEFS.

The steamer *Van Hoorn* was expected to arrive at Macao yesterday with about 100 soldiers to relieve the time-expired men in the garrison.

THE HARBOUR WORKS.

Negotiations regarding harbour improvements are said to be progressing satisfactorily. A representative of a Company prepared to undertake the work has come to Macao on the invitation of the Government. No doubt H. E. the Governor is in earnest about the matter, but the Colony would be glad to have the assurance that the Home Government is equally in earnest.

A REQUIEM SERVICE.

A requiem service was held at the Cathedral last Monday for the repose of the souls of the late King Carlos I and the late Crown Prince, Luiz Philippe. The sacred edifice was crowded and a military guard was stationed at the entrance. Business was suspended for the day and the fort fired a royal salute of 21 guns.

CHURCH MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this Association was held at St. Paul's College on the 5th inst., when His Lordship Bishop Lander presided over a fair attendance.

After the Rev. F. T. JOHNSON had read the minutes of last meeting.

Mr. CROWTHER SMITH, the treasurer, submitted the annual statement which showed that the subscriptions during the year amounted to \$200, of which \$54 was arrears, \$140 subscriptions for 1908, and \$6 subscriptions in advance. A considerable number of subscriptions were in arrear, while donations amounted to \$242.49. As the subscription was only intended to cover the cost of the "Gleaner", and the working expenses, it was the duty of all members who were able to do so to send donations according to their means. Such donations would be applied directly to missionary work. The working expenses amounted to \$14.32 including postage and cheques. The balance in hand amounted to \$360.62, out of which it would be necessary to provide £6 for the "Gleaner" and "Round World" for 1909.

The next business was the election of officers and the result was as follows:—

Committee—Mesdames Beck, Bunbury, Edkins, France, Lander, Stewart, Misses Baker, Bryer and Pitts. Messrs. J. M. Beck, A. Bryer, G. Piercy, Crowther Smith and Dr. J. H. Sanders. Secretary of Juvenile Department—Miss Bryer.

Box Secretary—Mrs. Edkins.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. Crowther Smith.

General Secretary—Rev. A. B. Thornhill.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP regretted the absence of the Bishops of South Tokyo and Sukiang. It was the Church's duty, he said, to bear witness to all nations that five times over we were told of our Lord's express command to bear witness for him that some 1900 years ago he came into the world to save all mankind. Missionaries did not go to other nations to get them to change their views, or to give them good advice, but to inform them of the great fact they would otherwise not have known. The Church of Rome did far more in mission work than the Anglican Church, the latter not having contributed her proper share in the evangelisation of nations. His Lordship concluded by exhorting members to continue the good work with more enthusiasm, and to exhort others to do all they could.

The Revs. E. J. Barnett and J. A. Bunbury followed with interesting addresses on the work of the Church Missionary Association, after which the meeting closed with prayer.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, February 8th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS
PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).MOTION TO STRIKE OUT A STATEMENT
OF CLAIM.

In the action in which Chan Ma Shi was plaintiff, and Fung Wa Chun defendant, Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. W. E. L. Shenton (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), moved to strike out the statement of claim on the ground that it showed no reasonable cause of action. Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that this summons had been adjourned from Chambers into Court. It involved argument principally as to what was a reasonable cause of action, and whether the plaintiffs had a reasonable cause of action. He submitted that on the facts alleged in the statement of claim there was no reasonable cause of action, because there was no cause of action at all against the defendant. Unless the pleadings were amended the statement of claim should be struck out and the action dismissed. Further, he submitted that no amendment which could properly be admitted could be made that should give a cause of action. This action was an action for detinue to recover certificates of shares in companies. The nature of the action was important, and it was necessary to bear that in mind because of the allegation that no reasonable cause of action was disclosed in a case of detinue. The plaintiff must, on the face of the pleadings, show title in himself. Mr. Pollock, in his pleadings, alleged that these shares had been made a gift to the plaintiff by her husband. That was not a fact. It was bad pleading. It was a conclusion of law, but he ought to have stated the facts which constituted in law a gift. There were no facts in this statement of claim from which the Court could come to the conclusion that a gift was made.

His Lordship—In pleadings you are not required to set out evidence. Why cannot you allege a gift?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Because you cannot plead law. I submit the allegation of a gift is an allegation in law, not an allegation in fact. Proceeding, counsel said that if the plaintiff had said her husband handed to her certain certificates, that would be a fact from which the Court could assume a gift. Another allegation in the pleadings was to the effect that the shares were now registered in the husband's name, therefore he was the only person who could be plaintiff to recover these certificates from the defendant. He was not arguing that the plaintiff had no beneficial interest in the property, but he argued that she could not succeed in this action. The statement of claim was bad from certainty as to the articles sought to be recovered. They should have given the specific nature of the property required to be retained.

Mr. Pollock raised the preliminary point that this application was wholly misconceived, and that as a matter of fact the defendant was altogether out of order, speaking from a legal point of view, in bringing forward this application. He thought it quite sufficient to say in the pleadings that a gift was made. Again, the wife had given to her as part of the gift, a power of attorney which enabled her to transfer these shares.

His Lordship—I must see whether cause of action lies in the four corners of this paragraph.

Mr. Pollock contended that a gift implied power for the receiver to deal with it. Had the plaintiff a right to sue in detinue? Surely his friend was driven on the horns of one of these dilemmas; either the wife could sue or the husband could sue. Either these shares remained the property of the husband, or else they had been given to the wife.

His Lordship—The curious thing is that in paragraph 4 you don't allege a gift.

Mr. Pollock—The shares were bought in the first place with her money.

His Lordship said the plaintiff was in fact suing for fresh certificates which on the face of the paragraph in the pleadings it was impossible for her to obtain. Mr. Pollock had put everything he could, but his Lordship thought paragraph 3 of the pleadings ought to be amended. He would make costs in the cause.

Thursday, February 11th.

IN PROBATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS
PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

SETTLING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WILL.

His Honour gave his decision with regard to the true construction to be placed on the will of the late Joao Antonio da Silva. The plaintiff in this friendly action was J. M. P. da Silva, son of deceased and executor of the will, the defendant being M. A. P. da Silva, widow of deceased.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. K. Holmes, represented the plaintiff, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the defendant.

His Lordship said—Mr. da Silva died leaving a will in which this clause appears, "I give, devise and bequeath to my wife, Maria Antonio Place da Silva, as long as she remains a widow, all my household furniture, jewellery, silverware, electroplated ware, library, philosophical instruments, and effects of every description for her use, and she may dispose of them as she thinks fit." This was subject to a special bequest of the piano to his daughter, and to a collection of coins which he desired should be treated as heirlooms. I have to decide whether this gives the widow an absolute interest in this property, as would appear from the last words of the clause giving her a power of disposition, or whether it is only an interest so long as she remains a widow, which would deprive her of any power of disposition, and would make an inventory necessary for the purpose of checking any action which she might take with regard to them. It appears that some small trinkets have in fact been given by her to some of her children on the assumption that she had an absolute right of disposition. I am of opinion in the first place that the words "she may dispose of them as she thinks fit" mean "she may dispose of them as she thinks fit." Therefore, apparently we have two sentences in the same part of the will which are in contradiction. For the family it is argued, and I think very plausibly, that if the power of disposition were maintained it would nullify the word "so long as she remains a widow," because it would enable the widow, for example, to give this property to a man whom she intended to marry the next day. But this *a priori* argument may be met by another; she might find herself in financial difficulties from which the sale of some of this property might relieve her, and she would be unable to do so, though apparently her husband intended to give her power to dispose of it. I was referred to a good many cases by both sides, but in deciding the question I need not go beyond two elementary principles: first that I must discover the true intention of the testator and give effect to it; the second, which is given in Williams, ninth edition, page 934—"the Court is bound to give effect to every word of the will, without change or rejection provided an effect can be given to it, not inconsistent with the general intent of the whole will taken together." Now, although all the other clauses of the will give the wife an interest in all the different kinds of property "so long as she remains a widow," I do not think that I am bound to construe the fifth clause in the same way, and thus reject the last words of it. The insertion of these words itself shows that I should be wrong in doing so. Is it then possible to give an intelligent meaning to the clause "giving effect to every word without change or rejection"? I have given the question much thought, and I have come to the conclusion that I can do so; people who make wills, though the law dubs them "testators" are still human beings; and they are apt to believe that what has gone on, and is going on while they are alive,

can go on uninterruptedly after they are dead. I do not find it very difficult to imagine that a husband, reposing all confidence in his wife, should in some respects continue to repose that confidence in her when he is writing his will, expecting her to justify it after his death. Mr. da Silva's intention throughout the will is to my mind clearly manifested; his widow is to continue his position as head of the family, and is to enjoy his property in the same way as he himself did while he was alive. With regard to the bulk of property he makes an ultimate disposition in favour of his children which is no more than carrying out his original intentions when he invested his money in shares. With regard to the furniture and other moveables, he desires the widow to have the same control over it as he had himself; she may dispose of it as he might dispose of it. He does not want her, it is true, to have it, should she marry again, but so long as she does not marry again it seems to me that he intended to repose sufficient confidence in her not to dispose of it entirely: so he has given her a power of disposition while she remains a widow, which he believes she will exercise reasonably; but if she marries again, then her power over it is to cease. It is to be noticed that there is no special gift with regard to the furniture, etc.; it would in the event of her death or re-marriage, go into the general personal estate. I do not think this is unreasonable, and certainly reading the affidavits Mrs. da Silva has done nothing which would lead me to suppose that she takes any other view than the one I have expressed, though, of course, in view of these proceedings, she has been compelled to claim the full benefit of the last words of the clause. Nothing that she has done would have justified hostile proceedings; but I am told, and I hope it is so, that this is a friendly suit, and all parties desire my opinion, which I will now try to give formal expression to. I believe the testator's intention to have been to give his widow a reasonable power of disposal of these things so long as she remains a widow. The reasonableness is a question for the Court, and should the family think that any disposition of the furniture which she may make in the future is unreasonable, as, for example, if she were getting rid of it all, then they must apply to the Court to stop it. It seems to me, however, that this expression of my views as to the testator's intention will check, on the one hand, Mrs. da Silva from making such an unreasonable disposition of the property as her late husband would disapprove of—though I do not mean to suggest that she has any such intention; and on the other hand will check the family from making any application which the Court may think unreasonable to stop such dispositions as she may choose to make. This, I think, should be a sufficient guide to the conduct of all parties for the future and prevent unseemly family disputes in a matter which to my mind seems exceedingly plain.

Sir Henry Berkeley asked his Lordship to decide regarding the disposal of the coins.

His Lordship—That question is covered by the law of heirlooms. They go to the heir.

Mr. Pollock—They go to whoever is entitled to the estate for the time being.

His Lordship—I think we settled what was to be done last time. It is only a question of custody: the parties must arrange.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The eldest son should have them.

His Lordship—The eldest son and widow must try to arrange.

Mr. Pollock then raised the question of disposal, and submitted that the widow had a power to dispose of the property.

His Lordship—That is not my view at all. I don't think that could have been the testator's intention in this case. I am not disposed to assent to that. I have tried to give a human, not a legal, intention.

Mr. Pollock—After her death what is to happen?

His Lordship—It goes into the residue.

Sir Henry Berkeley submitted that on the true intention of the will repairs and insurance should be paid out of the income.

His Lordship decided that ordinary repairs and insurance were covered by clause 25 of the will.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

A BANKRUPTCY APPEAL.

Re Chan Yuen Shan *ex parte* Chan King Po.
His Lordship stated that the Full Court had intended to give judgment in this appeal, but Mr. Almada had properly drawn his attention to an ordinance passed in 1902 which he thought everybody had overlooked, and which altered the position of the debtor. He thought this would have to be considered.

Sir Henry Berkeley, who appeared for the judgment creditor, said it did not alter it so far as affecting the jurisdiction went.

His Lordship—I think it may, and I could not properly give judgment until we had considered it. Why we have all overlooked it, I don't know.

Mr. Pollock, who represented the petitioning creditor, said it had been entirely overlooked so far as he was concerned.

His Lordship—I could not give judgment this morning.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Will your Lordship indicate to us the point desired to be discussed?

His Lordship—Yes.

The decision will be delivered after further argument.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIMS FOR MONEY LENT.

The Wing Wing s.s. (o.), sued Ng Yin Ha to recover \$10.00, money lent by plaintiffs to Ng George and Chan Po Hing on the 9th February, 1907, repayment of which was guaranteed by defendant.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendant being represented by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett).

Mr. Goldring said the plaintiffs were suing for \$1000, which was lent by them to a man called Ng George, and payment of which was guaranteed by the defendant. The loan was made in connection with a timber venture in Sandakan, and was to be repaid immediately.

Plaintiff was then called, and it transpired in cross-examination that his company was composed of more than twenty shareholders.

His Lordship, on this account, non-suited the action with cost.

NEW N.Y.K. LINER.

THE "MISHIMA MARU."

The new N.Y.K. liner *Mishima Maru*, one of three sister ships lately completed by the Kawasaki Dockyard Co. of Kobe, left on the 11th inst. on her maiden voyage to Europe. The new craft is a twin screw three decked steel vessel 465 feet in length, 56 feet beam and with a depth of 36 feet 6 inches, displacing 15,800 tons. She is propelled by twin screw triple expansion engines with 7,300 indicated horse power, and has an average speed of 16 knots. She has a complete refrigerating plant on board with a capacity of 3,100 cubic feet and apparatus for the supply of 7,000 gallons of distilled water. She has every facility for the rapid handling of cargo of all descriptions and for heavy weights, she has numerous cranes and derricks, one capable of lifting forty tons. There is also a complete equipment of life boats, rafts and belts as well as the latest fire-fighting appliances. There is accommodation for a large number of first and second class passengers as well as a number of steerage passengers. The vessel is lighted throughout with electricity and the cabins are models of cosiness and convenience. The main saloon is on the maindeck and is beautifully furnished with all the latest improvements. There are also handsome drawing rooms, social hall, smoking rooms, barber's shop, photographer's dark room, surgery, etc.; the laundry, galleys, pantries, bakery, etc., have all been supplied with the most up to date fittings. The various cabins have been tastefully furnished and leave nothing to be desired. The new vessel is commanded by Captain A. E. Moses, a careful navigator and one of the oldest commanders in the N. Y. K. Service.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHINESE AT THE OXFORD LOCALS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

Queen's College,
9th February 1909.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter to you of 26th October last, I should like to say that *Classical Chinese for Seniors only*, and *Modern Chinese for Juniors only*, have been added to the number of subjects that may be taken at the Hongkong Centre.

The Oxford Delegates have not had special Entry Forms printed for the use of those local Candidates who wish to take Chinese; but they ask that the word *Greek* be erased from the Entry Form of such a candidate and either *Chinese* [for *Modern Chinese*], or *Classical Chinese* be substituted for it.

In *Classical Chinese*, for Seniors only, the book set for this year is the *Lun-yi*, i.e., the *Confucian Analects*. The paper in *Modern Chinese*, for Juniors only, will consist of unprepared translation from Chinese into English and from English into Chinese, just as in the case of Italian and Spanish—Faithfully Yours,

T. K. DEALY,

Hon. Sec., Hongkong Centre.

JAPAN AND MANCHURIA.

THE AGREEMENT WITH CHINA.

China-Japanese Telegraph Agreements, which have just been ratified, show, Reuter's Agency learns, that some important concessions have been made by Japan, which are further evidence of Japan's respect for Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria. During the Russian occupation the telegraph between Port Arthur and Chefoo was directly connected at Chefoo with the Russian telegraph office, which was free to receive any kind of message, but by the new Agreement the Japanese office at Chefoo will receive official telegrams and private messages in Japanese characters only—and then only during certain specified hours. The Agreement also provides that Japan is to retain only the telegraph lines in the railway zone, and that she is to pay to China an annual royalty for messages sent over the railway zone lines. In this connection it is pointed out that the Railway Agreement between Russia and China expressly stipulated that no charge or royalty should be exacted by China for these messages.

The ratifications just exchanged refer to the China-Japanese Telegraph Convention which was signed at Tokio on October 12, to a supplementary Agreement regarding the Chifu-Kwantung cable concluded at Tokio in November last, and also to a further Agreement signed at Tokio on November 7 regarding the working of the Japanese and Chinese telegraph lines in Manchuria. The Telegraph Convention consists of eight Articles, the first of which refers to the Kwantung-Chifu cable, which is to be laid and maintained by the two countries jointly, the Chifu end by China and the Kwantung end by Japan. By Article 2 Japan hands over at once to China on payment of 50,000 yen all Japanese lines in Manchuria outside the railway zone, and expresses her readiness to negotiate with China concerning the Japanese telephone service outside the railway territory. Pending the conclusion of a telephone agreement Japan will not extend her telephones in Manchuria without the consent of China nor permit them to compete with the Chinese telegraphs. Article 3 provides for linking up open ports or treaty ports in Manchuria near the Japanese railway territory with the lines in the railway zone by means of telegraph wires to be maintained by China. This holds good for a period of fifteen years. In Article 7 Japan undertakes to pay China an annual sum of 3,000 yen as a royalty on all messages over the Japanese Manchurian telegraph line.

The second Agreement of November 6, ratified on the 12th inst., contains fifteen articles dealing with the detailed methods of working the cable referred to in Article 1 of the telegraph Convention. The supplementary Telegraph Agreement of November 7 consists of eleven Articles and deals with the details of working the Manchurian telegraphs in conformity with the Telegraph Convention.

THE TYPHOON OF 1908.

REWARDS FOR BRAVERY.

A very pleasing and interesting ceremony took place at the Taishan Station of the Kowloon Customs, yesterday, at which thirteen of the Native gigmen were the happy recipients of well-merited honours for life saving and bravery displayed during the Typhoon of 27th July last, off Taishan Station in the Canton River, where upwards of 60 junks either sank or were dashed to pieces on the rocks.

At break of day and during the height of the storm, the men mentioned below, in response to a call from the foreign officers, volunteered for the noble work and put off in the gigs, and so successful were their efforts that in combination with those of the men on shore they were instrumental in saving over 150 lives. The first mentioned man displayed exceptional gallantry by jumping overboard from a gig with a line and making it fast to a vessel's mast which the gig was unable to reach, and by so doing was the means of saving the crews of several junks in the vicinity.

The report of this valuable rescue work was duly brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Customs, and subsequently submitted to the Canton Viceroy who expressed himself as being much gratified by the success of these efforts, and had much pleasure in bestowing Certificates of Merit conferring Official Buttons on the following men:—

Li Chiang-lui—sixth class Button and Merit Certificate. Hu Jung Hu Choo, Chang Ken, Yeh Chen, Yin Ping, Yeh Yueh, Teng Fu, Li Yu, Huang Mau, Hu K'o, Chung Yun and Huang Ta—eighth class Button and Merit Certificate.

The Commissioner of Customs, Mr. A. H. HARRIS, in the presence of the assembled Staff made the presentation. He said—It is with much pleasure that I find myself here this morning to show the appreciation of H. E. The Viceroy of the good work performed by the men of this Station during the Typhoon of July 1908. At that time—the night of July 27-28—there were anchored in the Bay and neighbourhood several scores of Junks and the loss of life and property among them was very severe. It is for rescue work among these craft that I am now called upon to bestow these Merit Certificates carrying with them Official Buttons on 13 members of the gigmen staff. Under the guidance of Mr. Adamsen, the Officer in charge of the station, and inspired by the example and co-operation of the foreign staff, many trips—in fact nine in all,—were made to junks in distress and some 60 lives were saved. In risking your lives to save those of men in distress you all proved yourselves worthy followers of one of the finest of callings and you gigmen have shown that the spirit that animates your Western brothers is alive in yourselves. It is the first duty of a sailor to succour those in need at sea and your act on that night compares favourably with those of any other set of men. You, Li Chiang-Lin, in swimming off with a line to a wreck and thereby enabling some twelve men to get saved, are specially to be commended, and the Viceroy has conferred on you a Merit Certificate with Button of the 6th Class. On the others His Excellency has conferred Certificates with Button of the 8th Class. In addition, third class seaman Li is now promoted to the 2nd class. It is with much pleasure that I record the gallant conduct of the Foreign staff who assisted to man the boats that pulled off to the wrecks showing that you were equally capable of risking your lives as of directing operations from shore. That you would thus act was taken for granted; none of you can be false to the traditions of your native land. I have informed the Viceroy of the active part you took in this rescue work and have no doubt that he will take the same favourable notice of your efforts as he has of those of the native gigmen. I thank you all for your good work (which has also been brought to the notice of the Inspector General) and I am sure you will be inspired by this mark of the Viceroy's notice to continue to show yourselves loyal, energetic, and steady men of whom the Service can be proud.

COMPANY REPORT.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

The eighty-seventh report of the Court of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 20th February, is as follows:—

To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

GENTLEMEN,—The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1908.

The net profits for that period, including \$2,005,774.81, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$5,644,125.65.

The Directors recommend the transfer of \$500,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$14,500,000.

After making this transfer and deducting remuneration to Directors there remains for appropriation \$5,129,125.65, out of which the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of two pounds sterling per share viz.: £240,000 and a bonus of five shillings sterling per share, viz.: £30,000 amounting in all to £270,000 which at 1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$, the rate of the day, will absorb \$3,122,891.57.

The balance \$2,006,234.08 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

The Honourable Mr. W. J. Gresson has been elected Chairman for the year 1909, and Mr. H. E. Tomkins Deputy chairman.

Mr. R. Shewan, Mr. E. Shellim and the Honourable Mr. H. A. W. Slade retire in rotation and being eligible for re-election offer themselves accordingly. The Directors very much regret to have to record the death of their colleague M. C. G. R. Brodersen last October. Mr. H. A. Siebs has been invited to fill the vacancy: this appointment requires confirmation at this meeting.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, who offer themselves for re-election.

E. SHELLIM,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 9th February, 1909.

Abstract of Assets and Liabilities, 31st December, 1908.

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	\$15,000,000.00
Sterling reserve fund, £1,500,000 @ ex. 2/-	15,000,000.00
Silver reserve fund	14,000,000.00
Marine insurance account	250,000.00
Notes in circulation:—	
Authorized issue against securities and coin deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies and their trustees	\$15,000,000.00
Additional issue authorised by Hongkong Ordinances against coin lodged with the Hongkong Government	5,006,779.00
	20,006,779.00
Current Accounts:—	
Silver	\$92,179,322.53
Gold £7,835,952	
8s. 2d=	90,613,930.34
	182,793,252.87
Fixed Deposits:—	
Silver	\$60,741,375.15
Gold £4,759,798	
14s. 6d=	55,044,073.73
	115,785,448.88
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers, call loans and and short sight drawings on London Office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)	15,543,824.40

Profit and loss account	5,644,125.65
Liability on bills of exchange re-discounted £3,783,112 8s. 2d. of which £2,786,448 18s. 5d. have since run off.	
	\$384,023,430.80

ASSETS.

Cash	\$51,759,923.38
Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against authorised and/or excess note circulation	13,000,000.00
Bullion in hand and in transit, Indian Government Rupee paper	5,450,265.90
Consols, Colonial and other securities	2,673,731.33
Sterling reserve fund investment viz:—	11,591,068.25
£1,208,000 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Consols at 82	
(of which £250,000 lodged with the Bank of England as a Special London Reserve.)	£990,560
£255,000 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. National war loan, at 90	229,500
£325,000 Other sterling securities, written down to	279,940
	£1,500,000 @ x 2/- 15,000,000.00

Bills discounted, loans and credits	120,074,613.25
Bills receivable	162,767,471.23
Bank premises	1,706,357.46
	\$384,023,430.80

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
To amounts written off:—	
Remuneration to Directors	\$15,000.00
To dividend account:—	
Dividend £2 per share on 120,000 shares = £240,000 at 1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$ =	\$2,775,903.61
Bonus 5/- per share on 120,000 shares = £30,000 at 1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$ =	\$ 346,987.96
	\$3,122,891.57
To transfer to silver reserve fund	500,000.00
To balance forward to next half-year	2,006,234.08
	\$5,644,125.65

Cr.

By Balance of Undivided profits, 30th June, 1908	\$2,005,774.81
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st Dec. 1908, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	3,638,350.84
	\$ 5,644,125.65

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

To balance £1,500,000 at ex. 2/- (invested in Sterling Securities.)	\$15,000,000.00
By balance 30th June, 1908	\$15,000,000.00
\$1,500,000 at ex. 2/-	\$15,000,000.00
	\$15,000,000.00

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

To Balance	\$14,500,000.00
	\$14,500,000.00
By balance 30th June, 1908	\$14,000,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account	500,000.00
	\$14,500,000.00

COMPANY MEETINGS.

HUMPHREY'S ESTATE AND FINANCE
CO., LD.

The ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders in the Humphrey's Estate and Finance Co., Ltd., was held at the registered offices of the Company, Alexandra Buildings, at noon on Feb. 6th. Mr. H. Humphreys presided, and there were also present, Dr. J. W. Noble; Messrs. J. A. Jupp, H. A. W. Slade, J. W. C. Bonnar (directors). E. Seth (secretary), J. M. G. Machado, Ho Fook, J. M. Wong, W. E. Clarke, H. Percy Smith, D. K. Moss, W. A. Dowley, C. B. Buyers, H. Summers and Captain T. P. Hall.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—With your permission I will follow the usual custom and take the report and statement of accounts as read. Reference has been made in the report to the opening of a new account "Typhoon and Floods Insurance Fund" by the transfer to same of the amount previously appearing under the heading of "Fund for Equalization of Dividend" for which we obtained the sanction of the Shareholders in October last and to the withdrawal of \$6,738.06 from this fund. On the other hand during the year \$4,746.12 has been added to the Insurance Reserve Fund which represents the value of expired fire risks underwritten by ourselves. Turning to the Accounts, your will see that the amount invested in property has been increased by a sum of \$79,992.26 being amounts paid on account of the contract for the erection of a block of six three-storied buildings in Robinson Road, Kowloon, now nearing completion. All the flats have already been let, also one of the shops. This block has been built on a portion of one of the three lots purchased in June 1906. I might mention in regard to this purchase that ten per cent of the purchase money was paid in cash and ninety per cent viz:—\$346,453.20 remained on mortgage free of interest until 31st December, 1908, so that the Company will commence paying interest at the rate of six per cent per annum on this sum as from the first of this year. It was the original intention of your directors to build on a larger scale than they have done on the ground thus accrued but the lack of demand for all kinds of property to which I made reference at our last annual meeting has again been a conspicuous feature of the year under review and in consequence the proposed building programme was considerably curtailed. Our liabilities under the heading of "Sundry Creditors" are larger by \$85,768.05 mainly in consequence of the new buildings at Kowloon just referred to. Rents show a falling off of \$7,349.97 but this is more than accounted for by the fact that Marine Lot 48, for which we used to get \$1,100 a month and taxes, became vacant in April last and is still vacant. You will observe that no appropriation has been made in the report for remuneration to General Managers and Directors. Under the clauses 72 and 82 of the Articles of Association the Directors and General Managers are only entitled to their 5 per cent. commission on the net profits for each year that the same amount to seven per cent of the capital of the company. Under this arrangement Directors get nothing in bad times and the General Managers practically nothing. I say practically nothing in the case of the General Managers because I estimate they make perhaps \$1,000 to \$1,500 per annum clear on their allowance. If the bad times are going to continue it is possible shareholders may be asked to make some change in the Articles relating to remuneration as they were framed when everything in the Colony and property in particular was booming. I have nothing further to add, but, before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may have to put.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and account.

Mr. DOWLEY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved the re-election of Dr. J. W. Noble and Messrs H. A. W. Slade, J. Scott Harston, J. S. Van Buren, J. W. C. Bonnar and Ho Tung to the directorate.

Mr. Moss seconded, and the motion was carried.

Messrs W. H. Potts and H. Percy Smith were re-appointed auditors on the motion of Mr. Ho Fook, seconded by CAPTAIN CLARKE.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., on February 6th. Mr. R. Shewan presided and there were also present Dr. J. W. Noble, Mr. H. P. White and Mr. Chow Hing Kee (consulting committee), Mr. J. A. Young (secretary), and Messrs. J. M. E. Machado, A. A. Cordeiro, D. W. Gazdor, H. R. B. Hancock, H. T. Terry, H. Percy Smith, U. King Sui, F. Ellis and F. McCubbin.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, copies of the report and accounts for 1908 now laid before you have been in your hands for some days, so they need not be read now. During that year trade in all its branches lay under a heavy cloud, although I am glad to say that cloud has shown some signs of lifting since the year closed, and consequently our business of making loans called for increased vigilance on our part, but I am sorry to say that one or two old clients, owing to the prevailing depression, were unable to meet their engagements compelling us to enter into possession. At the same time rates of interest were not so high as money was not scarce; it was satisfactory security that was lacking. Under these circumstances which, however adverse, are nothing more than may be expected in a bad year such as that we have just passed through; we may congratulate ourselves on the figures now before us. Our gross earnings are higher than ever, and besides paying the usual dividend of eight per cent on an increased capital we are able to place ten thousand dollars to Reserve Fund. Unfortunately we have had to deplete that fund by \$30,000, principally to meet heavy depreciation on our investments and possible losses on some accounts about which we are a little doubtful. The latter are of no great significance, but the depreciation on shares is severe. I feel myself that in writing down such a stock as Cements to \$10 we are valuing them at panic prices, but it is best to be on the safe side and to give no opening for criticism. It has been no year for selling stocks, nor do I think we should be doing justice to ourselves or to the stocks themselves by trying to realise on such a market. There is nothing for it but to wait for better prices and for that better time which I feel sure is not far off when capitalists will look back with astonishment to the quotation now current and with regret that they did not take fuller advantage of such cheap and favourable opportunities for investment. Our godown business has answered all our anticipations and has worked very satisfactorily, particularly so for a first year's experience. There is nothing in the accounts that calls for special comment; some of the items are a little larger, such for instance as interest paid and sundry debtors, but this is only the natural result of a larger business and an increased number of accounts. Altogether our position is now a very sound one, our loans are spread over a wide area, all known losses are provided for, and our investments written down to figures well below their true value. As to the future I see many reasons to be optimistic, and I hope no one here listens to those who talk of the Colony being played out and having seen its best days, etc. The simple fact is that business here, as almost everywhere else in the world, has suffered the reaction consequent on a period of inflation and over-trading, and as usual the weaker have gone to the wall. But that is all, the resources and facilities of the port as a depot for the trade of Southern China are still untouched and unrivalled, and will be enormously increased when once communication by rail is opened up with the great cities of the interior. In the meantime I feel sure, as I said before, that better days are at hand, and when the long-looked-for

improvement comes and the voice of the pessimist is heard no more in the land those who have had faith in Hongkong and its fortunes will reap their reward. If there are any questions any shareholder would wish to ask, I shall be pleased to answer them.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. WHITE seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. MACHADO proposed the re-election of Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee H. P. White, U. Poi On and Dr. J. W. Noble to the consulting committee.

Mr. GAZDAR seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Messrs A. O. D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts were re-appointed auditors on the motion of Dr. NOBLE, seconded by Mr. CHOW HING KEE.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business gentlemen, I am much obliged to you for your attendance. Dividend warrants are ready now.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LD.

The ordinary half yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., was held at the office of the Company, Hotel Mansions, on the 9th inst. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. E. Tomkins, H. A. Siebs, F. A. Gomez, C. R. Lenzmann, G. Friesland, C. H. Ross, E. Fuhrmann and W. Helms (directors), Captain W. E. Clarke (secretary), and Messrs. E. C. Lane, Chau Sui Ki, W. Dowley, E. Georg, F. Ellis, A. H. M. da Silva, Dr. J. W. Noble and others.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, It is with feelings of great regret that your Directors record the death of their late colleague, Mr. C. Brodersen, which occurred on the 4th October last at Shanghai. The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, we will, with your permission, take them as read. Your Directors are again pleased to be able to present a satisfactory result of the half-year's working, and trust that the proposed appropriations of profits will meet with your approval. Nothing of unusual interest has occurred during the period under review. The steamers of the fleet have been navigated with care and safety, and maintained in a good state of efficiency. The *Heungshan* has been fitted with two new tail-shafts and propellers, the cost of which has been defrayed out of the Special Repairs Fund. In consequence of a slight fracture showing in the starboard paddleshaft of the steamer *Honam* a new shaft was ordered from England and is now at the Kowloon Dock in readiness for emergency. The only damage of any consequence caused by the typhoon of 28th July last was due to several large cargo lighters crashing into and wrecking the inner-end and offices of the Company's jointly-owned Hongkong wharf. The Company's Wing Lok wharf also suffered from a similar cause. The cost of our share of the repairs to the Hongkong wharf appear in the Balance Sheet, while the cost of repairs to the Wing Lok wharf amounting to \$1,100 has been debited to Special Repairs Fund. Loans on mortgage have been adjusted in accordance with a recent survey and re-valuation by the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Palmer and Turner. The Company's funds invested in Public Companies are, in the opinion of your Board, all well secured, and, as is usual, the values of all investments have been adjusted in accordance with the quotations current at the end of the year. The loss in exchange of Chinese subsidiary coins during the six months under review amounted to \$21,510.90, and it seems hopeless for us to look for remedial measures from the Governments concerned. It has been argued that we might raise our passage rates, but shareholders will readily understand that, with severe competition and great trade depression, there is a limit to that means of recouping our losses. I do not think that there is anything else that calls for particular comment, but should any shareholders require any further information, I shall have pleasure in answering any question. No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN

proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. LANE seconded, and the motion was carried *nem con*.

Messrs. H. E. Tomkins, R. Fuhrmann and C. Thiel were re-elected to the directorate on the motion of Mr. ELLIS, seconded by Mr. GEORG.

It was proposed by Mr. DOWLEY, seconded by Mr. CHAU SUI KI, and agreed, that Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. Hutton Potts should be re-appointed auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business gentlemen. I am obliged to you for your attendance. Dividend warrants are ready now.

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO., LTD.

The twentieth ordinary meeting of this Company was held at the Company's office, Victoria Building, on the 9th inst. Mr. T. F. Hough presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. Rodgers and J. M. E. Machado (directors), A. Shelton Hooper, (secretary), M. S. Northcote, E. B. Shepherd, J. C. Peter and E. Jones Hughes.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission I propose taking the report and accounts as read. In submitting the accounts to you a year ago I pointed out that a number of our houses were vacant and this state of affairs continued for some little time notwithstanding the reduction in the rents we were asking. I am however now pleased to be able to inform you that all our houses are occupied, and we have enquiries from persons wishing to take any of them when they become vacant again. With this increase in the demand we hope that in the present year our revenue may be such as to enable us to revert to the payment of the same dividend which we paid for 1907. The property has been kept in repair at a cost slightly increased on that of the previous year on account of the damage caused by the Typhoon of July last. If any shareholder wishes for further information I shall be pleased to give it.

Further information was not sought, and the report and accounts were adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. HUGHES.

Mr. SHEPHERD proposed the re-election of Messrs A. Rodgers and J. M. E. Machado as directors.

Mr. NORTHCOTE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. J. Cox Edwards was re-elected auditor, on the motion of M. PETERS, seconded by Mr. NORTHCOTE.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants are ready.

The Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd, advertise to-day a meeting of shareholders to be held on the 26th inst. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing resolutions providing for an increase of the capital to \$1,000,000 by the creation of 8,000 additional shares of \$50 each.

SHANGHAI COMPANIES.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd., held last week it was decided to recommend the payment of a final dividend for 1908 of 3½ per cent. on both the Preference and Ordinary shares of the company.

The accounts of the Shanghai Land Investment Co. show a sum of Tls 662,404.86 available for appropriation. The Directors recommend a final dividend of 6% (making 12% for the year on fully paid up shares) which will absorb Tls 234,000; a bonus of Tls 2 per share on 78,000—shares absorbing Tls 156,000; the transfer of Tls 130,000 to Reserve Fund for equalisation of dividends; and to carry forward to new account Tls 142,404.86.

There has been but one sad event to mar the pleasure of the stay of Harmston's performers in Hongkong. That is the death of Mr. Paul Ragoul, the tiger trainer. Mr. Ragoul was well and hearty on Saturday morning, but in the evening he succumbed to an attack of heart failure at the Astor House. He was buried at the Catholic Cemetery on the 15th inst.

REMINISCENCES OF CHINA.

LECTURE BY SIR JOHN MELEAVY BROWN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, January 15th.

Last night there was a good muster of members and friends of the China Society at the Caxton Hall to hear from Sir John McLeavy Brown, C.M.G., L.D., some of his early reminiscences of China. The programme this session is far in advance of that of last year, thanks to the energy of the indefatigable honorary secretary, Mr. Byron Brenan.

Admiral the Hon. Sir F. R. Fremantle was in the chair, and briefly introduced the lecturer, who was well received. The lecture was given without any formal notes, Sir John merely allowing his memory to guide him through his early days in the East, commencing with the trip out to Hongkong and thence to Peking.

At first he showed a certain reluctance, he said, to appearing on that platform, for he had heard and been much impressed by numerous papers read before the Society and he felt that he had neglected his opportunities in China for studying the great classics and teachers as these lecturers had done. Therefore he was afraid that he had insufficient matter for a lecture, when Mr. Byron Brenan mentioned such an item to him. He told Mr. Brenan what he felt and Mr. Brenan quite agreed with him (laughter.)

However, the Secretary pressed for some sort of lecture so he had agreed to give merely some reminiscences. When one threw one's memory back to the early days of China it was inevitable to think of the great changes that had taken place. If they stood at the beginning of the past fifty years—it was nearly fifty years since he first went to China—they would probably anticipate a great many more changes than had actually happened in that time. But looking backward from this time to that there had been, it must be confessed, quite as many changes there as elsewhere.

It was only in 1834 that trade was thrown open in China and it was after that that questions began to arise, attended with difficulties for settlement between the interested parties. It was from that date that change and development in the relations of foreign nations and China really might be reckoned.

There were various settlements of a more or less unsatisfactory kind and it was not until 1860 that things were really brought to a more permanent settlement. And changes since then have been really developments, rather than changes, of movements having their origin about that time.

In thinking of reminiscences one always thought of old friends, the scenes in which one met them, the happy times one had with them, and the sadness of losing many of them in the course of time. That was how he had been led in thought in approaching this subject, but he would merely touch upon a few of his experiences, beginning with his first voyage out to China.

First of all there must be mention of the greater facilities in life now compared with then. In 1861 there was very little opportunity for travel. There was only one line, the P. and O. Now, there were five or six lines on the Eastern route, with fully equipped and luxurious vessels. He went out at the country's expense and it cost the Government to send him to Shanghai something like £157 10s. He supposed the cost to-day would be less than half that, and the gain in time had been proportionate.

He and his associates had to take five steamers to get to Tientsin. Now he supposed they would only take two. For a good deal of the journey they had a very rough passage and had to lie on the floor. They started in the old P. and O. boat, the *Ceylon*, and had four days to wait at Cairo for the overland mails. That gave them time to see Cairo and the Nile under the old conditions. There were no Nile steamers: they crossed in a slow old ferry and made land journeys on donkeys.

At Suez they took another steamer, a very safe, solid boat, built of iron, but extremely hot and uncomfortable. They had a very small cabin and his impression of the Red Sea under those conditions was not favourable.

At Ceylon they took another steamer and so on to Hongkong. It took fourteen days to go from Singapore to Hongkong. They went back and forward between Hongkong and Canton till orders came for them to go to Peking. They called on local officials and did everything they were told was the proper thing to do, and he had to record that their reception was very friendly. He began to study Chinese and Dr. Legge of Hongkong, a famous authority on Chinese, presented him with two big volumes of translations of the Chinese classics which he took on with him.

At Shanghai they were detained to await a steamer for the north. The first person he saw in Shanghai was Sir Robert Hart, then Commissioner of Customs in that port. Next morning after their arrival they went to the races through the mud that was ankle deep. Everybody who could wore top boots. There he saw men well known both in the East and in London. One wearing a red coat, was Mr. Pannure Gordon, another was Mr. Antrobus. There were three great business houses in these days at Shanghai, the forerunners of the numerous business concerns of to-day.

At Chefoo he met Mr. Martin Morrison, son of Dr. Morison, the first missionary to China. He asked them to dinner and they accepted. The arrangements were certainly primitive—he sat, for instance, on a turned up box for a seat. However, they were young and took it as a matter of course, and did justice to what was prepared for them to eat.

From there they went to Talienwan and in the subsequent journey he had the roughest storm to encounter that he had ever experienced. The bulwarks were carried away and the passengers had to hold on to the steamer's fittings. It was extremely cold, so he decided to get to some place that was warmer. He went on a search and at last got to the boilers where he remained very comfortably till the next morning (Laughter).

At Tientsin he saw Sir Robert Douglas, now home in England and one of the mainstays of the Society. He was then assistant in the Consulate. They were just too late to go up the river, so took carts and started in the face of a bitter wind that he had never forgotten. By the second of December they got to Peking and were well received by everyone. It was a very pleasant life in those days. They took up much time in studying the Chinese with their language and customs. The government took the trouble to give them an official to instruct them and look after them. He was a genial character who thought it was bad for them to work too quickly. They obeyed him ostensibly but studied among themselves and so went ahead rapidly.

There were at that time English, French and Russian ministers in Peking. The English minister, Sir Frederick Bruce was an exceptional man—many of them thought the best representative they had ever had there. After that came the Germans with a minister and then other nations. They were an extremely happy family and the relations between the British Legation and the Chinese Government were probably never better. It was largely due to the excellent temper and tact of Sir Frederick Bruce, who never pushed an advantage too far but dealt with consummate skill with the Chinese and his fellows on the Diplomatic Corps. As physician to the Legation there was Dr. Lockhart who knew an enormous amount about the Chinese and treated crowds of them.

The lecturer came in contact with many members of the Tsung li Yamen, the real man of affairs was a Tartar, Wensiang. He was very fond of inquiring about foreign affairs and how things were done abroad. He used to discuss matters with Europeans and the lecturer learned more Chinese from him in a few hours than from any other source. He came from the borders of the Empire yet spoke most excellent Chinese, just as people in some parts of Ireland and Inverness were supposed to speak the best English.

Another official of note was Heng Ki. He was not brilliant, but having had three years of office in Canton he had enriched himself and was well off. When they wanted a subscription for anything they looked to him and, though he sometimes protested, he always paid up.

He remembered that once an official report was prepared on the mineral wealth of Shansi.

Presently the Chinese were astonished to receive the bill. They disputed it at first, but Wensiang at last laughed and ordered the costs to be paid up at once.

Then there was the Capitaine-General of the City Gendarmerie, Chung Lun, a very good-natured old man who dined them all in the Imperial City in honour of Sir Frederick Bruce who was retiring. The cooking was very good—half northern Chinese and half southern Chinese.

That was about 1863. At that time other nations were anxious to get treaties with China. Among others was Denmark which sent out Colonel Raastoff. Usually such matters were dealt with by Ministers at Shanghai or Tientsin in those days, but Col. Raastoff determined to go straight to Peking. He was told by other Europeans to call on the Chinese Minister at Tientsin, as he was not making sufficient ceremony previous to receiving a treaty. He declined, saying he was accredited to the Emperor of China, and to Peking he was going to do his business at headquarters. There was at this great excitement and running of messengers.

The British Legation lent a soldier at last to accompany Colonel Raastoff, and the Russian Legation lent a Cossack. Whether these soldiers got something to drink or not he could not say positively but on entering Peking one soldier persisted in going one way and the other another way. The Danish Minister had to stand still in the street in the hope they would arrive at an agreement and lead him on.

Presently an old gentleman came along in his chair and seeing a foreigner apparently in distress he leaned out and shook his hands in token that he would help him. The Dane did the same and this went on for some time till the old gentleman succeeded in making him understand that if he would follow him he would help him. He led him down a side street and entered a room in a large house where tea was ordered. Not a word was spoken all this time, though the old gentleman waited for some explanation and began to think his visitor rude. At last a teacher was sent for who could converse with the Dane. He told the teacher his business, whereupon the teacher exclaimed "Why this is the Foreign Office you are in now." The old gentleman was none other than Chun Lun himself. The story of how Col. Raastoff reached the Foreign Office was a standing joke for a long time.

The students, of whom the lecturer was one, made several excursions. One to the Mongolian border in which he took part had never before been undertaken by students. They had pleasant weather and really the north of China was found to be most enjoyable, with better samples of weather than in England.

One of the lecturer's amusements was to watch Dr. Lockhart dealing with swarms of patients in a rough and ready manner.

On the way out they heard that the Emperor of China had just died. The circumstances were similar to those of a few weeks ago. In those days there were no telegraphs. News had to travel by steamer. A body of officials, they heard, had decided to keep control of affairs in Peking, but they had reckoned without their hostess, the late Dowager Empress, who planned and carried out her famous *coup d'etat* in November. When the lecturer and his colleagues arrived in Peking there was no evidence of excitement. The Empress Dowager had completed her plans and everything was quiet.

Just at this point Sir JOHN made a reference to Yuan Shih Kai. Within two months of the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager they saw a move on the part of the Regent to get rid of a very able official. It was alleged, he knew not on what ground, that that official had planned violent measures. In any case his removal was a great pity and to keep him out of office would mean a great loss to China. He was much more experienced than the others and represented the more progressive element in the national administration. He believed he had no part in any "anti foreign movement." His removal, he repeated, was exceedingly to be regretted.

To return to his arrival in Peking, Sir JOHN said he went wherever he wished. The students were sometimes a little rough but there was no malice on either side and he could honestly say that during the whole time he was in China

he did not receive any unkindness from Chinese, high or low. There were, of course, robbers and thieves in places who would stop at nothing, but beyond that one might travel through the country without harm.

He went on one occasion to Shanghai and saw some excellent sports. They had what he supposed would nowadays be called a Marathon race. The winner was the excellent secretary of the Society, Mr. Byron Brenan (Laughter and applause).

Passing to Korea he said he could not but feel regret at the turn affairs had taken there. There was material there for a fine independent country.

Under proper independent government it should become a really happy and prosperous country, peopled by an intelligent and able nation. The Koreans had a remarkable faculty for foreign languages. They were to be found, far inland away from ports where foreigners are met, and yet with a knowledge of English and other languages besides excellent Chinese.

Really there had been more change in Korea in the twelve or thirteen years he was there than in China during the whole period of his residence there. Railways and telegraphs had been developed throughout the land, and newspapers had been established. It was quite a modern nation in these respects. The telegraphs diffused the news very quickly and an excellent sense of general knowledge was springing up. Some mistakes had been made that would have been avoided had the Western advisers been listened to with greater attention, but still the advance had been marvellous.

There had been perhaps too much of the spirit of his old friend Wensiang in Peking who, when developments were suggested, usually replied "So you think, but I am not sure we are ready for that so quickly. We will wait a little." Fifty years were, after all, a short time in Wensiang's idea.

To Seoul, twenty-five miles from the sea coast or fifty miles by water there were two ways of going at the time he went. One was by chair and the other by small steamers. There is a railway now from the south to the very frontier of Manchuria.

Looking back at these changes he regretted again the loss of the independence of Korea. It was a unique country, in its way different from China on the one side and Japan on the other. However, the independence was now gone and he did not suppose it would ever be anything more than part of Japan.

He thought it was being kept too much in a position of a dependency. If it were really incorporated in Japan and given corresponding privileges it might be better. There was a time when the Koreans and the Japanese did not get on at all well but their relations, he was assured, had improved greatly. When the war was on the Japanese were welcomed as deliverers. The Japanese had a serious task before them then and gave themselves entirely to it. No doubt the Koreans suffered in consequence and their property was not always respected. Still most of that had been set right since. While he was in Korea he tried to impress upon the people not to waste their money and not to get into debt to other people, or those people would get a hold on them. The advancers of money would want guarantees. As he happened to have control of the Customs revenue he would not allow them any more than he could help to spend more than was necessary. In consequence when he left he handed over to his successor something like four million dollars surplus. He was afraid that had gone long since.

He pointed out other small States to them, like Switzerland, Holland, Belgium and Denmark as prosperous States keeping a guard on their finances. But his words were not always heeded.

In climate Korea was really excellently situated. For ten months of the year no one could ask for a better climate. It was out of the typhoon area on the one hand and the earthquake area of Japan on the other. Altogether in that respect it was as safe as England.

It had many advantages in production. Rice was the principal article and there was always a surplus for export to Japan. It was of better quality, looked better and was more nutritious than the product of other parts.

In regard to cattle there were excellent stocks, but disease struck them from time to time, and when those who knew the country saw

that the export of hides had gone up they knew it was a bad sign.

There was excellent fibre for paper manufacture and when it was manufactured on a better plan and a wider scale it should become a valuable article of export. For wheat and cotton there were also ample openings. He had himself seen a wide plateau covered with luxuriant weeds that only wanted clearing and draining to provide wonderful cotton fields. As the Japanese were anxious to have cotton fields close at hand for their supply of raw material that plateau would doubtless be developed as it merited.

Summarising his impressions Sir JOHN said he did not think that part of the globe was finally settled yet. He would be a bold man who would prophesy that stability had been definitely reached there. It must be remembered that on the border of Manchuria three powerful empires—potentially if not actually—met together. Could they all be said to be satisfied with affairs as they stood? He did not think so. There were hopes and ambitions that had been disappointed and hopes and ambitions that still looked for fulfilment. He could not say that peace would be maintained but he hoped all would turn out for the best.

Manchuria was a splendid territory. He did not know but some day England would herself draw some of her supplies from there. Its population must really be Chinese in the main. The future question was which nation was to undertake the onus of government. He hoped for the best and in any case was sure of the ultimate importance of the territories under modern development (Applause).

THE CHAIRMAN'S RECOLLECTIONS.

The CHAIRMAN proceeded to give reminiscences also in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer. He first went to Hongkong in the Spring of 1853.

He recollected being struck with the fact that everybody seemed exactly alike there. An amusing book had been written by an American lady who spoke of her impressions when first reaching China. She wrote of the "the broad fan-like expanse they called a face" (Laughter). He was not of course silly enough to judge people from his own standpoint only and first impressions, and he readily admitted that the Chinese might retort on these Westerners with their enormous nose. He merely gave his impressions. Hongkong was in those days, as now, a very important place. There had been great improvements since then. In those days they had to go too often on expeditions that were not happy to the cemetery of the Happy Valley.

One heard most then of the house of Jardine, Matheson and Company, and there was great delight when a China tea clipper did the passage in seventy-three days.

Pirates were constantly on the go. They even established a sort of blockade for a time on the place, and eggs and produce were hard to get. He went on several interesting expeditions against them. Once a Peruvian barque was taken and a Chinese merchant and a French lady on board were captured by the pirates. His ship went in pursuit and they were fortunate enough to find two junks on which they discovered the prisoners. Several pirate strongholds were cleared out, but the main one, containing more than fifty junks, was so well defended that his superior officer decided that his small force of boats out the day they tried it was too small. He (the speaker) was furious but was ordered below as an impertinent person. He wanted to have a hand in the fight however. Later the squadron took the stronghold.

The CHAIRMAN went on to tell how he went to Seoul while commander-in-chief, but arriving there after dark Sir Walter Hillier, the Consul, sent word that the gates were closed and it was a popular belief that the King slept with the keys under his pillow. To avoid delays they took a route over the walls, climbing in the crevices worn by the feet of the bad characters who went in and out of the city after the gates were closed for the night. Thus they entered Seoul. A lady who was with the party was helped over with a rope. He found Seoul a most interesting place.

Another reminiscence concerned an old Taotai of Chefoo. It was expected that the Japanese would seize the place and the people were very much alarmed. He as Admiral in that quarter

gave the Japanese commander the hint that it would be better not to go there, in fact he believed he told him he would not allow it. He then informed the authorities at home who told him he had exceeded his authority though he was convinced that they were glad he had done it. But the old Taotai, expecting the Japanese, told his friends what he proposed to do—"When the Japanese come," he said, "I'll fire a gun or two at them to save my face. Then I'll take the opium in the city and get away. By this means my ancestors will not be dishonoured." But by his action with the Japanese commander, the old Taotai had no such experience, for the Japanese kept away.

MR. CLEMENT ALLEN.

Mr. CLEMENT ALLEN also spoke of his experiences in China and the wonderful changes that had occurred. People who went to China now found railways developing and a capital with macadamised roads, tramways and the electric light where some of the elders present remembered as a city, as Sir Edward Malet described it, "paved in the filth of centuries."

While he was a consul in China the war between Japan and China was on. At the end of the Shantung peninsula there was a community of missionaries belonging to no particular denomination. The Japanese were advancing, so he applied to the Chairman that night to send protection for the missionaries. He sent a cruiser but the Commander on interviewing the missionaries was informed that they felt quite safe and did not wish to leave. A little while after he was surprised to receive a note from one of the missionaries complaining that the Japanese had taken his donkey and asking him to recover it. He refrained from replying that he regretted the loss of the missionary's brother and merely said that he could do nothing in the matter (Laughter).

He seconded the vote of thanks to the lecturer and it was carried with acclamation.

Sir JOHN in response added a few remarks, and mentioned among others called back to memory as having been met with in his early official experiences in China, Sir Thomas Wade, Mr. Alcock, and Sir Harry Parkes.

THE SUICIDE OF M. BONHEURE.

The Indo-China papers now to hand contain particulars of the greatly lamented death of M. Bonheure, the Lieutenant Governor-General of Indo-China. M. Bonheure was found dead in the palace at Saigon on the morning of the 30th ult. with a revolver by his side and a bullet wound in his head. He left no letter making known the cause of his desperate act. The suicide must have occurred about midnight. He had dined that evening with M. Hermemer and Dr. Henaff, who left the Palace at 10.30. There was nothing in the Lieutenant Governor's demeanour that evening to presage the act he a little later committed. Neither M. Outrey, who lived in the Palace, nor the police guard heard the detonation. The news created a profound sensation in Saigon and the public offices and the theatre closed as a mark of sorrow.

The autopsy disclosed that death was due to suicide, but, in spite of his apparent vigour, the deceased gentleman presented signs of serious organic disease, likely to cause great depression and doubtless predisposed him to suicide.

Mr. Klobukowski, the Governor-General, was on tour when the news reached him and he telegraphed that he would abandon his tour and return to Saigon by the most rapid means. He had not reached Saigon, however, by the date of the funeral which took place on the 8th inst. M. Outrey, representing the Governor-General conducted the sad ceremony. There was a large concourse of members of the civil and military authorities.

M. Outrey, in a discourse at the graveside, spoke of the deceased, as one of the most devoted most honoured and most brilliant servants of Republican and Colonial France. From the lengthy biographical sketch of the deceased administrator's career, given by M. Outrey, we gather that he was born at Nîmes in July 1864. He was trained for the Bar and at twenty years of age was the first secretary of the conference of advocates. Three years later he joined the Army for a year leaving it with the rank of second lieutenant, and return-

ing to his first vocation at the Bar. A little later he embraced a colonial career under the inspiration of M. de Lanessan, who, as a friend of his family, had come to appreciate his rare qualities of intelligence united to industry. From the 1st June 1891 to 1st December 1894 he passed through the lower grades of the service up to chief of the cabinet of the Governor-General of Indo-China. In 1896 he returned to France and in the following year was appointed Secretary General *pro tem* on the Ivory Coast, and subsequently became acting Governor-General of that Colony. His subsequent career included a mission to Samory then in conflict with France; later Chief of the Cabinet of M. de Lanessan on his appointment as Minister of the Marine. He was made a chevalier of the Legion of Honour in 1899, and in 1906 he received the rosette of an officer of the Legion. He steadily rose in the Colonial service to the rank of a governor of the first class which he attained in 1904, and in 1906 he was appointed Acting Governor of French Guiana. He came to the Far East in 1907 as "résident supérieur" of Tonkin. During his short sojourn there he made himself very popular and regret was unanimously expressed in Tonkin when he left to take up the duties of Lieutenant-Governor of Cochin-China on the departure of M. Beau, the Governor-General. The government of Indo-China was temporarily confided to him until the arrival, at the end of September last, of M. Klobukowski. M. Outrey after thus sketching the career of the deceased gentleman said it could be well said that they were about to lay in the soil of Cochin-China which he loved a colonial functionary in every acceptance of the word. On the Ivory Coast, at Djibouti, at Martinique and in Guiana, as in Indo-China above all, he had left the impression which only such generously tempered souls as his were susceptible of leaving in the affections of his subordinates.

Mr. Flandrin, in the name of the Colonial Council, also pronounced an eulogy at the grave.

A more recent dispatch from Saigon announces that as M. Bonheure left no word of his intention to end his days, and perhaps also because of reports which are circulating suggesting another cause of death, an "instruction" has been opened concerning the cause of death.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

JAPANESE CELEBRATION.

Tokyo, February 11th.

To-day is the twentieth anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution. The event was marked by an official ceremony in the Diet and a popular celebration took place at Hibiya Park.

JAPAN AND THE FAKUMEN RAILWAY.

Tokyo, February 12th.

With regard to the recent criticism by *The Times* of Japan's attitude towards the Fakumen Railway question Baron Komura has no intention of giving way in the least from the stand taking up.

The question is at present under discussion at Peking.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 15th February.—A few demands having come forward, the prices are declining. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.40	to	5.55
Round, Good quality	\$5.20	to	5.25
Long	5.55	to	5.60
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	\$5.50	to	5.55
Garden, " No. 1	\$5.20	to	5.25
White,	\$5.10	to	5.15
Fine Cargo	\$5.10	to	5.15

SUGAR.

Kobe, 27th January. Cane—Raw Java, neglected. Formosan is in fair demand. Osaka refined—No auctions have taken place since last report.

Yokohama, 30th January. The market is quiet. At the last auction the limits were not reached and all parcels were withdrawn.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, February 13th

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1070	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1090	do.
Malwa Older	\$1110	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1130	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1000	do.
Persian Extra-Fine	\$880	do.
Patna New	\$1065	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1100	do.
Benares New	\$1017½	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 5th February, 1909, state:—

The exuberance of spirit shown by the trade immediately after the holidays was not long lived, the question of credit coming very prominently to the fore. Sellers are not encouraging further purchases without some signs of their previous sales being paid for and taken away, a matter that is rendered difficult by the action of the Native Bankers, who are as withholding the issue of credits to the majority of their constituents on the plea that they are awaiting an auspicious day. So far only about twenty five per cent of the applicants have met with accommodation, consequently there is a lull in the market. The early date in the Foreign Calendar on which China New Year fell is also likely to lengthen the period that usually occurs before business is properly resumed, the festivities in the Country being continued much longer than they are here, so that nothing more of importance is likely to be done for another two weeks, when it is hoped the Native Banks will have definitely decided on the course they will follow. Judging by the Native market reports, not always very reliable, however, a fair amount of reselling is going on between the dealers and country merchants on a moderate margin of profit, if the prices are correct as reported, and we give them with some reserve. Attention appears to be confined chiefly to Manchester goods, although American makes can be obtained below replacing cost from stock here. There is still no particular news from the Out-ports. Tientsin is doing nothing fresh in the way of Piece Goods, though there is some enquiry for Yarns. Future trade with Newchwang continues to look promising. Hankow is up in arms at a threatened increase in the rate of freight down her Exports down River, but it is hoped this will be amicably arranged without upsetting trade. It is much to be regretted that during the interval rumours have been gaining ground that one of the largest, and probably the oldest Import Firms of Manchester goods here, was in difficulties, and that its suspension would cause a large quantity of Merchandise to be thrown on the market. To this we are able to give an emphatic denial. Like the majority of the Piece Goods Import houses here the firm in question has certainly felt great embarrassment through the action of many of their Native constituents in repudiating or ignoring indents they had made two to three years ago, the amounts expended on duties and margin being enormous. It is this that has almost ruined the whole trade, and, as we have so frequently pointed out, some safer system than that hitherto prevailing will have to be adopted. Not feeling justified in entering into fresh transactions with such large quantities of goods on hand uncleared, and with heavy current expenses running on all the time, a halt had to be called but a straight forward statement of the situation has brought forth the requisite accommodation and the business will be carried on as usual. A set of "Provisional Rules for issue of exemption certificates for Import Duty-paid Foreign goods carried on the Hu-

ning Railway between open Ports" has been issued by the Inspector General of Customs, in compliance with the representations by the British Minister to free goods carried by Rail from the imposition of Likin at the inland barriers. To the lay mind they seem very cumbersome and calculated to defeat the desired end. It is an open secret that since the Railway has been opened the likin leviable on the alternative water ways has been much relaxed! The Manchester market is steady to firm and is still receiving a fair supply of orders from here. Fortunately, perhaps, not very prompt shipment can be given, or there might be another glut of goods here in the near future. Cotton in Liverpool has remained fairly steady, coming to-day 5.25d for Mid American spot, and 5.04d. c.o.c. June/July. Egyptian is down an eighth to 8½d. The increased demand by spinners both in Europe and the United States is expected to keep prices steady. The Export of Plain Cotton from Manchester last month was unexpectedly heavy, being 36,000,000 yards as against 26,000,000 yards for January last year. The New York market is keeping very strong for Domestic, 11s 5d being the latest price at which Peppercorn Drills were sold, but whether that was for China is not certain—it is to be hoped not. Sheetings are also very firm and advancing, which should stop business for this. Cotton is easier, 9.61 cents being the quotation for March "option" and 9.48 cents for July. The Yarn market is not really properly opened yet. Raw Cotton is firmer, the higher prices checking business.

A latter report states:—

There is no change to report in the market which remains inactive pending the proper resumption of business in the Country. The local dealers are buying themselves with general enquiries, and picking up old lots of goods here and there which were practically unsaleable before. Importers being glad now to accept any offer in order to clear. The Native Bankers are still acting with great caution and have only issued a few more credits to dealers who have proved themselves solvent, but the majority who have not satisfied their Creditors will have to confine themselves to a cash business and endeavour to work off their liabilities before the 18th March. The Credits that have been issued we understand are only 60 to 70% of the amounts granted last year. A fair quantity of goods have changed hands again amongst the natives, according to the market reports, but the enquiry still continues to be chiefly for Manchester goods and Yarn. Moderately large quantities are being shipped to Tientsin via Chingwantao, mostly Fancy Goods and Yarn, the freight being proportionately higher than on the smaller bale goods—which are no doubt being kept back for the direct steamers when the River is open. It is reported that another ice-free Port still further North, and within easy distance of the Chinese Imperial Railway, is to be opened in the near future, which will conveniently serve Newchwang during the months that Port is closed. At present the expenses via Chingwantao and Dalny are too heavy. The prospects for the Manchurian trade are very bright as regards the consumptive demand, but the currency question is in a most hopeless muddle, every transaction requiring double bargaining first as to the price of the commodity and then as to the value of the medium by which payment is to be made.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

IMPORTS.

Kobe, 27th January.—Cotton.—American.—Price have risen appreciably during the past fortnight, latest quotation for "forward" Middling being reported at Yen 32.30 showing a rise of about Yen 1.00 on previous rate. No business of importance has been done "Spot" Middling is quoted at Yen 30.00, but sales have been insignificant owing to small stocks. The total crop estimated for season 1908 and 1909 reported lately by the American Agricultural Department is given at 12,677,000 Bales. Indian.—The strong tendency of the American market, combined with demand from Europe and Japan has caused prices to gradually harden, forward rate closing at Yen 28.00 for Broach and Akola Khamguam 23.50 to 23.75. Some business is reported, but buyers are now hesitating to purchase further, preferring to await developments. "Spot" business has been small owing to small stocks. Broach is quoted at 25.50, Akola Khamguam (new) 23.00, Bengal (new) 22.00. Chinese.—The high

rates ruling, having checked business in "forward," but "Spot" has been moving on a small scale at following rates.—Best quality Yen 25.00. Common Yen 22.00. Shipping.—Market unchanged. Clearances very poor. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—The improved enquiry mentioned in our last report has continued and some moderate lines in Black Cottons have been booked at low rates. Worsteds and Woollens.—A few small orders have been placed since last report. Metals.—Spot market weak, and fresh business scarce. Rice.—Stocks all moving off very slowly. No change to report.

EXPORTS.

Copper.—No business on account of still receding London values. Fish Oil.—Owing to paucity of stocks, market advancing. Rice.—Several transactions are reported and with further enquiries in the market prices are firm with upward tendency. Cotton Yarn.—The market is quiet. Vegetable Wax.—Market declining, no buyers. Matting.—Since last report, the New Year's holidays (old calendar) having intervened, market was quiet and unchanged. Straw Braid.—There was less enquiry during the fortnight and a weaker feeling prevailed in consequence. Chip Braid.—The demand continued good throughout the period under review, the market closing firm with upward tendency.

The Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade in its fortnightly circular dated the 30th ult. says:—Cotton Yarns.—The market for these is practically lifeless, and save for spasmodic enquiries for special counts, the demand for imported yarns may be said to be non-existent. Cotton Piece Goods.—In White Shirtings there has been a small business put through in staple lines. Considerable interest has been shown in cotton Italians and several bookings are reported. For Grey Shirtings and Printers a number of enquiries have been made, but the actual business done is said to be small. Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—Union Italians: practically nothing has been done in these, although a number of offers have been forwarded. Fancies: enquiries have been more plentiful and some bookings are reported; stocks are still ample. Blues and blacks, owing to abundant supply are only being bought in small quantities. With Linings and Pocketings the market is well supplied for the present and forward business is very small. Textiles Generally.—The present stock of local supplies has militated against the normal resumption of trade. Raw Cotton.—As last reported the market is lifeless, spinners not yet being inclined to pay the higher rates asked by producing countries. Rice.—The market shows some improvement. The rise in silver has had the effect of hardening prices. Metals.—The market is quiet, and there is practically nothing doing. Window Glass.—Market still very quiet. Kerosene Oil.—Arrival and deliveries for the second half of January show; Standard Oil Co.: arrivals nil; deliveries 16,200 cases. Rising Sun Petroleum Co.: arrivals nil; deliveries 22,000 units. Market generally weak. Flour.—There is nothing doing in imported. Locally manufactured flour is selling at 40 cent per quarter-sack under American. Wheat.—Stocks are very small, but owing to the high prices asked in America and Australia fresh business for the time being is out of the question. Mills are now using Manchurian Wheat which can be purchased at a less cost than either American or Australian.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 6th February 1909.

Hongkong markets:—

Apricot	\$19
Borax	\$17 to 18
Cassia	\$29 to 29½
Cloves	\$31
Camphor	\$80 to 85
Cow Bezoar	\$70 to 125
Fennel Seed	\$8
Galangal	\$2½ to 4½
Grapes	\$19
Kismis	\$21
Glue	\$26
Olibanum	\$3 to 15
Oil Sandalwood	\$300
„ Rosa	\$70 to 90
„ Cassia	\$210
Raisins	\$14
Senna Leaves	\$8
Sandalwood	\$33
Saltpetre	\$10 to 11

EXPORTS:—

SILK

Yokohama, 30th January.—Owing to the continued demand, chiefly for "Shinshius" from Europe as well as from America, prices for raw silk have further advanced. At the close, the market is very quiet, but, as stocks are gradually being reduced, holders are maintaining a firm attitude.

The market for waste silk is a little more active. Stocks offer very little choice.

Habutai:—The Kanazawa market during the past fortnight has been weak, and were it not for the reduced production, as is usual at this time of the year, it is very probable that prices would have shown a marked depreciation; these, however, show a decline in 23 inch goods only, which width has been neglected. The demand from America has completely abated, whilst there has been nothing of importance from Europe. There has been no matter of importance to report in Echizen during the past fortnight, as the market has been quiet with hardly any enquiry. Rates show a small decline all round. The downward tendency in Kawamata appears to have been arrested, which is more probably due to a gradual reduction rather than to an increased demand.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 15th February:—There is no market \$83.50—\$84.50.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Devanka*, sailed on 6th Feb. 1909:—For Glasgow.—11 cases chinaware. For Gibraltar.—2 cases silk goods. For Lyons.—1 case silk. For St. Etienne.—40 bales raw silk. For Marseilles.—7 cases birds feather. For London.—20 bales raw silk, 5 cases silk, 5 cases blackwoodware, 12 pkgs. books, 1 case machinery, 1 case sweater, 10 pkgs. private effects. For Trieste.—2 cases hats.

HANKOW, 19th February.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 38.50
Do. seconds	„ 34.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	„ 22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	„ —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	„ —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	„ 9.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	„ 8.40
Green China Grass, Szechuen	„ —
Jute	„ 3.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	„ 10.90
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	„ 1.90
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	„ —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	„ 10.50
Animal Tallow	„ 11.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	„ 15.80
Gallnuts, plum do.	„ 17.75
Tobacco, Tingchow	„ —
Tobacco, Wongkong	„ —
Black Bristles, Riflings	„ 108.00
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	„ —
Turmeric	„ —
Sesamum Seed	„ 5.10
Sesamum Seed Oil	„ —
Wood Oil	„ 8.90
Tea Oil	„ —

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 12th February, 1909.—The market has been fairly brisk during the week under review; rates have ruled firm, and there has been more of a buying tendency than has been apparent for some time. Any increase in the volume of business is however still handicapped by the unwillingness of holders of stock to part at current rates, to the almost total cessation of forward contracts, and to the absence of

any but the smallest of speculative business. Exchange on London closes at 1/9½ demand, and on Shanghai at 74½ T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai have ruled very steady at 895, with fair sales at that rate, and at time of closing there appears to be no more obtainable except at an advance. London remains unchanged at £86, and latest advices from Shanghai quote \$920 sellers at ex 73.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions were placed during the early part of the week at 830 and 827½, later however the rate fell to 825, at which a few shares changed hands, the market closing with further buyers at the last rate. North-Chinas have declined to 100, and Cantons remain on offer at 190. Yangtzes show a slight improvement at 180 on a quotation from the North.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been the medium of a fair business at 330. Chinas have also found further buyers at 106, both stocks closing firm at quotations, with buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled steady, and after further small sales at 30 cum div., close with buyers at 28½, ex the div. of \$1½ paid on the 9th instant. Indos have improved to 38 and 18 for combined shares after small sales at 37 and 17, the market closing with further buyers at the former rate.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been somewhat erratic, and both buyers and sellers appear to have been sparring for an opening, with the result of some sales at 130, 127½, and at time of closing again at 130, the market however closes with probable further sellers at the higher rate, but with the fairly strong inclination to buy, it is difficult to say when sellers may stop and the rate further improve. Luzons have been placed at 17, and close steady, with an inclination to buy at that rate.

MINING.—Rauhs have been neglected as far as business is concerned, but there are still buyers at 8½. Chinese Engineerings have receded in the North to 16½ with sellers. Langkats are also quoted lower at 830.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed during the week at 90, but with further buyers at that rate and no sellers the market gradually recovered, and with later sales at 90½ and 91 closes with buyers at the latter rate and with no sellers under 92. Kowloon Wharfs have been placed to some extent at 45, 45½, and 46, also at 46½, closing with buyers at 46, Shanghai Docks been in some demand and there has been local business at 77 cash and at 80 for March. The Shanghai rates ruling about the same, at time of closing cash shares are wanted at 73 without finding sellers. Hongkew Wharfs have improved considerably in the North and sales have been effected at from 55, to 68, the market closing somewhat weaker with sellers at 166.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are in better demand, and close with buyers at 92. We have no business to report. Humphreys have found buyers at 8.65 ex the div of 60 cents paid on the 8th inst. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos show a considerable improvement, and rates come from the North as high as 90 buyers. During the week sales have been made at 85, 86 and 88, and from all accounts there is every prospect of the rates being at least maintained, as the prospects of the Company given the advantage of the present rate of sterling exchange, appear to be excellent. Internationals remain unchanged at 75, but Laou Kung Mows and Soeychees have declined slightly to 79 and 275 respectively. Hongkong Cottons remain with sellers at 10, and with no business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China-Borneos have changed hands in fairly large lots at 11½, closing steady at that rate, but with a few small lots on offer at 12. China Providents have been the medium of a fair business at 9.20 ex the div. of 80 cents paid on the 8th inst. and close steady. Dairy Farms have been placed at 14, Cements at 9.75, 9.70 and 9.65 the latter closing with sellers at 9.65. Watsons have found further buyers at 4½ closing with some small lots on offer at that rate. Walkins are enquired for at the improved rate of 2½, and China Lights are wanted at 4½, after sales at the rate in the early part of the week.

Quotations are as follows:—

Stocks	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	all	\$895, sales & buy.
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Marine Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 100, sellers
Union	\$100	\$825
Yangtze	\$60	\$180
Fire Insurances—		
China Fire	20	\$106, sales
Hongkong Fire	50	\$330, sales & buy.
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & W. Dock	all	\$92, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo	\$25	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$94, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 78, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$12, sellers
Douglas Steamship	all	\$34, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$28½, x.d. buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	all	\$38, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$23½
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$15
Taku Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	46/8, buyers
S'hai Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 45
Do. Preference	Tls. 50	Tls. 47½
		Tls. 51½
Refineries—		
China Sugar	all	\$130, sellers
Luzon Sugar	all	\$17, sales
Perak Sugar Cult.	Tls. 50	Tls. 102½
Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	all	\$46, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 166 sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	100	\$92, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30½, x.d. sellers
Wei-hai-wei Land and Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 9
Humphrey's Estate	all	\$8.65, x.d. buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$44, sellers
Tramways—		
The Peak Tramways	all	\$14
	\$1	\$2
Mining—		
Charbonnages	all	600, buyers
Raub	18/10	\$8½, buyers
Hotels Etc—		
Hongkong Hotel Co.	all	\$90
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16½
Dispensaries—		
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
Watkins, Ltd	\$10	\$2½, buyers
Lighting—		
Hongkong & C. Gas	all	\$200, buyers
Shanghai Gas Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 121
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$19
Miscellaneous—		
G. Island Cement	10	\$9.70, sellers
H.K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$9, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10
H'kong Dairy Farm	\$6	\$14, sales
Hongkong Ice Co.	all	\$220, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59, sellers
S'hai Waterworks Co.	\$20	Tls. 437½
H'kong Rope M. Co.	all	\$25, buyers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 5	Tls. 90
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 75
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 79
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 275
China Provident	\$10	\$9.20, x.d.
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11½, sales
Campbell, M & Co.	all	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	7	\$4, sellers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$24, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$4½, sales & buy.
	\$1	
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$140
Cigar Companies—		
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Alhambra, Ltd.	\$50	Nominal

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

5th February, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$925, buyers
National of China...	26	\$50
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 175
	T125	
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$825, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 100, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$190, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$337½, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$107, sales
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. } £10		Tls. 40, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. } £1		\$22.80
& Trading { pref. } 10		\$29.10, 0
S'hai Tug & { ord. } T50		Tls. 47½, buyers
Lighter ... { pref. } T50		Tls. 52, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter		Tls. 48
Kochien Transport-		
ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Erg...	T100	Tls. 77½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 153½, buyers
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 102½, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$112½, buyers
Mining—		
Raub Australian ...	£1	\$8, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 16½, buyers
	£1	
Lands—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 120
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$93
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104
Wei-hai-wei	T25	Tls. 8, buyers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 103, sales
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 86, sellers
International	T75	Tls. 74, sales
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 79, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 275, sellers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 121
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14
China Flour Mill ...	T50	Tls. 42½, buyers
S'hai Pulp & aper...	T100	Tls. 44, sellers
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$10, sales
Maatschappij, &c.,		
in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 865, sellers
Shanghai-Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 122½, buyers
S'hai Waterworks...	T20	T. 435, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement,		
Tile Works	50	\$25
Kalumpung Rubber	50	Tls. 80, buyers
S. R'ber Estates ...	T100	Tls. 80, buyers
Eastern Fibre	\$10	
Shanghai Electric		
Construction	£10	\$28.0.0. sales
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$23, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$52, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$16, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$46, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$23, sales
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16½
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 5, sellers
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$50, sales
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 45, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 61, sales
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos	\$25	\$22, sellers
Dallas Horse Re-		
pository	T50	Tls. 25
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending February 3rd, state:—A fair amount of business has been done during the week when trade was resumed after the interval caused by the China New Year Holidays. There has been no variation to speak of in rates. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2¼. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. There is no business reported. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance. Shares have improved to \$190, at which rate there are buyers. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug and Lighter Ordinary shares. Sales have been made at Tls. 47½. Sugar Cos.—Perak Sugars. There has been a good demand and the rate has appreciated to Tls. 102½. Mining.—No business reported. Shanghai Land.—Small lots of shares have changed hands at Tls. 120. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons have remained quiet during the week at Tls. 86 for cash, and Tls. 88 for March. There are sellers. Internationals. The nominal rates of Tls. 75 for cash and Tls. 77 for March prevail. Laou Kung Mow. A transaction is reported at Tls. 79 for cash. There are sellers at Tls. 80 for March. Soychees. Are marked down this week at Tls. 275. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. This has been a quiet market this week and there is hardly any change to report in rates, which more or less remain stationary at Tls. 862½ for cash and Tls. 885-880 for March. At the close we quote the rates Tls. 865 for cash sellers and Tls. 880 for March steady. Shanghai Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 125 for March delivery. Kalumpung Rubbers. The emphatic demand which has prevailed for some weeks has resulted in sending the cash rate to Tls. 78. Shares are wanted at this figure. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. A small lot has changed hands at 8.10, but the rate has since declined to 8.5/- at which prices some shares are on the market. Miscellaneous.—There has hardly been any business done under this heading and nothing of particular note. Rates are as appended below. Loans and Debentures.—Municipal 6 per cent. debts. still command the price of Tls. 104½. Shanghai Waterworks 6 per cent. have placed at Tls. 102. Astor House 7 per cent. debts. are in demand at Tls. 102, but have not been obtainable this week.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, February 15th

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	221
Credits 4 months' sight	225
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	43½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	131½
Bank, on demand	132½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	131½
Bank on demand	132½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	85½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	86
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	75½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	105½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	14½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	14 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	86½
FOREIGNERS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.25
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.15
BAR SILVER per oz.	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent. discount
Chinese	20 cents pieces ..	\$7.90
"	10 " " ..	8.40
Hongkong	20 " " ..	7.00
"	10 " " ..	7.10

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February:—

ARRIVALS.

- 3, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Anhus, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Fukui Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 3, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 3, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
- 3, M. Korner, German str., from Moji.
- 3, Merapi, Dutch str., from Singapore.
- 3, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Sydney, French str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Teucer, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Wosang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 4, Britannia, British str., from London.
- 4, Constantia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 4, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 4, Kweiyang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 4, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 4, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 4, Wakamiya Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 5, Cape Corse, British str., from Newcastle.
- 5, Devanha, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Fooksang, British str., from Moji.
- 5, Jsohi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 5, Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 5, Luchow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 6, Bessie Dollar, Brit. str., from Newcastle.
- 6, Fausang, British str., from Saigon.
- 6, Hongbee, British str., from Rangoon.
- 6, Nippon M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
- 6, Phu Yen, French str., from Saigon.
- 6, Ragnar, Nor. str., from Rajang.
- 6, Tean, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
- 6, Van Hoorn, Dutch str., from Sourabaya.
- 7, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Iyo Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Liangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 7, Manila, German str., from Sydney.
- 7, Signal, German str., from Saigon.
- 7, Taiwan, British str., from Dalny.
- 7, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 8, Chenan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Chennogle, British str., from Singapore.
- 8, Knivsberg, German str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Mishima Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 8, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Java.
- 8, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Batavia.
- 9, Aldenham, British str., from Australia.
- 9, Bengloe, British str., from London.
- 9, Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 9, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Deucalion, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Hong Wan I, Br. str., from Singapore.
- 9, Huichow, British str., from Samarang.
- 9, Ischia, Italian str., from Singapore.
- 9, Laisang, British str., from Singapore.
- 9, Luetzow, German str., from Yokohama.
- 9, Nyanza, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Wengko, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Clara Jebson, Ger. str., from Saigon.
- 10, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 10, Hanoi, French str., from K. C. Wan.
- 10, Headley, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Hikosan M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 10, Hinsang, British str., from Hongay.
- 10, Kamor, Norwegian str., from Wakamatsu.
- 10, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
- 10, Ningpo, British str., from Chefoo.
- 10, Yason, British str., from Singapore.
- 10, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Zweena, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 11, Chinhua, Br. str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Japan, British str., from Moji.
- 11, Joshin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.

February:—

DEPARTURES.

- 3, Aragonia, German str., for New York.
- 3, Carnarvonshire, British str., for London.
- 3, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
- 3, Fooshing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
- 3, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 3, Leipzig, German cruiser, for Shanghai.
- 3, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 3, Sydney, French str., for Saigon.
- 3, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Saigon.
- 3, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.

- 4, Bujun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 4, Hupeh, British str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Marie, German str., for Portland.
- 4, Namsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 4, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 4, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Britannia, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Drufar, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
- 5, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
- 5, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Stettin, British str., for Singapore.
- 5, Tarang, Norwegian str., for Yap.
- 5, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
- 5, Yatshing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
- 6, Devanha, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 6, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 6, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 6, Luchow, British str., for Cebu.
- 6, Quarta, German str., for Samarang.
- 6, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 6, Shangtung, German str., for Bangkok.
- 6, Shini Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 6, Wakamiya M., Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 6, Anhui, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Choising, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Constantia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 7, Fukui Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
- 7, Haldis, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 7, Kwangse, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Phranang, German str., for Amoy.
- 7, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Rocien.
- 7, Teucer, British str., for Singapore.
- 8, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 8, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Suisang, British str., for Singapore.
- 8, Van Hoorn, Dutch str., for Macao.
- 8, Yeboshi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 9, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Hanyang, British str., for Tsingtau.
- 9, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Merapi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
- 9, Nippon M., Jap. str., for San Francisco.
- 9, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 9, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
- 10, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
- 10, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Deucalion, British str., for London.
- 10, Luetzow, German str., for Europe, &c.
- 10, Nyanza, British str., for London.
- 10, Shaohsing, British str., for Amoy.
- 10, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
- 11, Aldenham, British str., for Kobe.
- 11, Bengloe, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 11, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 11, Fooksang, British str., for Singapore.
- 11, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 11, Hong Wan I, British str., for Amoy.
- 11, Knivsberg, German str., for Hoihow.
- 11, Mishima Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 11, Phuyen, French str., for Saigon.
- 11, Shinko Maru, Japanese str., for Takao.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Signal*, from Saigon, Mr. Kyler.
 Per *Meefoo*, from Shanghai, Mr. Single.
 Per *Glenogle*, from London, Mr. McDonald.
 Per *Sungkiang*, from Iloilo, Messrs Fenton and Clark.
 Per *Singan*, from Haiphong, &c., Messrs J. W. Taylor and C. Martin.
 Per *Bengloe*, from London, &c., Dr. and Mrs. Doran and Mr. J. Grant.
 Per *Kwongsang*, from Shanghai, Masters Bentley (3), and Master Gallon.
 Per *Iyo Maru*, Mrs. A. E. Lee, Capt. Milles, Messrs Jos. McArth and F. G. Whittick.
 Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Misses G. Pearne, C. Burke and Hill, Messrs W. M. Kamaroff, R. C. Hill, O. Muller and A. D. Ross.
 Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr and Mrs. Honig and infant, Lieuts. C. S. D'Agui, Webb Bowen and D. McL. Slater, Messrs F. Woodhouse, W. D. McLaren, J. K. Ohl and Park.
 Per *Manila*, for Hongkong, from Yap, Mr and Mrs A. Senfft; from New Guinea, Messrs Carl Vilweg and Buhr; from Manila, Mr and Mrs Geo. Compere and child, Mr and Mrs Manuel de Silva, 4 children and servant, Dr. and Mrs M. C. Patterson and Mrs Maria de Rocha.

Per *Joshin Maru*, from Tamsui, &c., Mrs. R. S. Bainbridge, Messrs R. Reese, H. Applin and T. Okada.

Per *Inaba Maru*, from London, &c., Col. and Mrs. Prior, Miss Prior, Messrs W. Canning, J. P. Hall, M. Stewart and Nishi.

Per *Aldendam*, from Australia, &c., Mr and Mrs R. Ransom, Mr and Mrs Creve Reid, Mr and Mrs Galey, Major and Mrs Ray, Mrs Gant, Mrs Mosier, Misses Harrison, Suge, Norman and Jalland, Messrs J. Corbett, Hayorn, Heapes, Richards, Wm. Kioole, Wilkie and Fancys.

Per *Luetzow*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs L. Haner, W. S. Haner and P. Kluck; from Kobe, Miss Julin Emery, Messrs Lothar Ullmann, H. Ede and N. L. Nilsen; from Nagasaki, Miss V. Iewra & Mr M. H. Michael; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs T. W. Sutterle, Mr, Mrs and Master Barff, Mrs E. Robins, Mrs Wadagoursky, Messrs W. G. Pirie, C. R. Burkill, Hauptmann Scherings, M. Speelman, R. C. Toeg, R. E. Radorei, J. Moosa, A. A. Brady, N. F. Wenyon, Wayland M. Magee, Lippert, A. Abins, D. M. Gregor, I. Hutton and Skala.

Per *Siberia*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs N. F. Marks, Real Adm'l and Mrs A. P. Nazro, Mrs M. A. Cleek and infant, Mrs M. J. Gosling, Mrs R. Hiles, Mrs G. Macdonald and maid, Mrs J. Rethinger, Misses C. Cheek, G. Douglass, E. Herahler, R. L. Pasco and A. E. Paddock, Dr. A. D. Foster, Dr. S. Olesen, Master A. Cheek, Comd'r. J. A. Gougherty, U.S.N., Messrs C. A. Baner, A. G. Glodt, J. F. Gross, O. H. Kahl, R. S. Kinney, F. H. Kales, P. J. Kearney, J. L. Lamour, O. E. Lautzenheiser, C. MacDonald, K. Meer, H. A. Meyer, A. C. Sharpy, R. N. Thurston and J. F. Thompson.

Per *Nyanza*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Capt. Vaughan, Surg. W. Archibald, Messrs G. Ellen, J. Viney, M. Spain and E. F. Scull; from Yokohama, for Brindisi, Mr and Mrs F. Pollard; for London, Mr and Mrs D. Vigors, Dr. and Mrs R. F. Bate, Misses C. A. Rooke, F. Hamer, B. Forsyth, H. Vaughan, J. Harcourt, L. and B. Forsyth, Messrs R. H. Smith, C. Vane, T. Sydney, H. Neville, C. F. Cooke, S. Geech, L. Lowndes, M. McLeod and S. Shroot; from Kobe, for London, Messrs F. E. White and H. Rankin; from Shanghai, for Penang, Miss E. S. Barbe; for Colombo, Mr and Mrs Hawkins; for Marseilles, Master and Mrs Macfarlane and 2 children; for London, Mr, Mrs and Miss Brockelbank, Mr and Mrs Cecil Smith and child, Rev. and Mrs E. F. Gedye and 4 children, Dr. and Mrs Peill and infant, Master Shekury, Messrs C. G. McCormick, J. Andrew and H. T. Howard.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs T. Chandoir, Admiral and Mrs A. P. Nazro, Mrs J. Rethinger, Mrs N. J. Gosling, Mrs E. Hirschler, Com. J. A. Dougherty, Dr. A. Foster, Dr. R. Oleson, Messrs C. Cameron, H. Gray, J. H. Thompson, J. Larmoue, P. J. Kearney, A. G. Glood, C. A. Baner, J. F. Gross, O. E. Lautzenheiser, A. H. Rhoden, G. Morrison, O. H. Kahl, D. Taesosa and J. N. Arameta.

Per *Mishima Maru*, for London, Mr and Mrs A. Rodger, Mr and Mrs H. F. Marks, Mr and Mrs Lucas, Dr. and Mrs P. Titus, Mrs Jones, Mrs Mayeda, Misses Eva Rodger, Nan Rodger, Marjorie Rodger, Ivan Rodger, Dorothy Rodger and Almeida, Capt. MacMillan, Messrs O. Bene, Kadota, MoHugh, John A. Plummer, T. G. Weall, Osada, C. Esdale, T. Yang, F. A. G. Strickland, H. Kodama, H. W. Page, Mayeda, Edward, Y. Takatsu, K. Saito, Long, Tsuzuki, Y. Hirose, J. Araki and K. Muroto.

Per *Sydney*, for Marseilles, &c., Mr and Mrs Abily and children, Mr and Mrs Nigg, Mr and Mrs Hamon, Mr and Mrs H. L. Bagshawe, Mrs Deparpe, Mrs Brizard and child, Mrs Bishop, Mrs Vincenot, Misses Prudent and Nishibayashi, Revs. P. Bayles, P. de Stolberg, P. Aurey and P. Roberts, Messrs E. Neubourg, Ahrang, Cozuquel, Levante, Muffer, Geronimi, H. Quelch, C. Rozello, J. E. Williams, Lamorte, Bamamoto, C. Hassan, Mohses, F. Asari, N. Sinclair, Le Saux, Salaun, Dissac, Leminoux, de Lecheoterie, C. M. Smith & J. P. Donnard.

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